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AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC

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THE CRYPT-KEEPER

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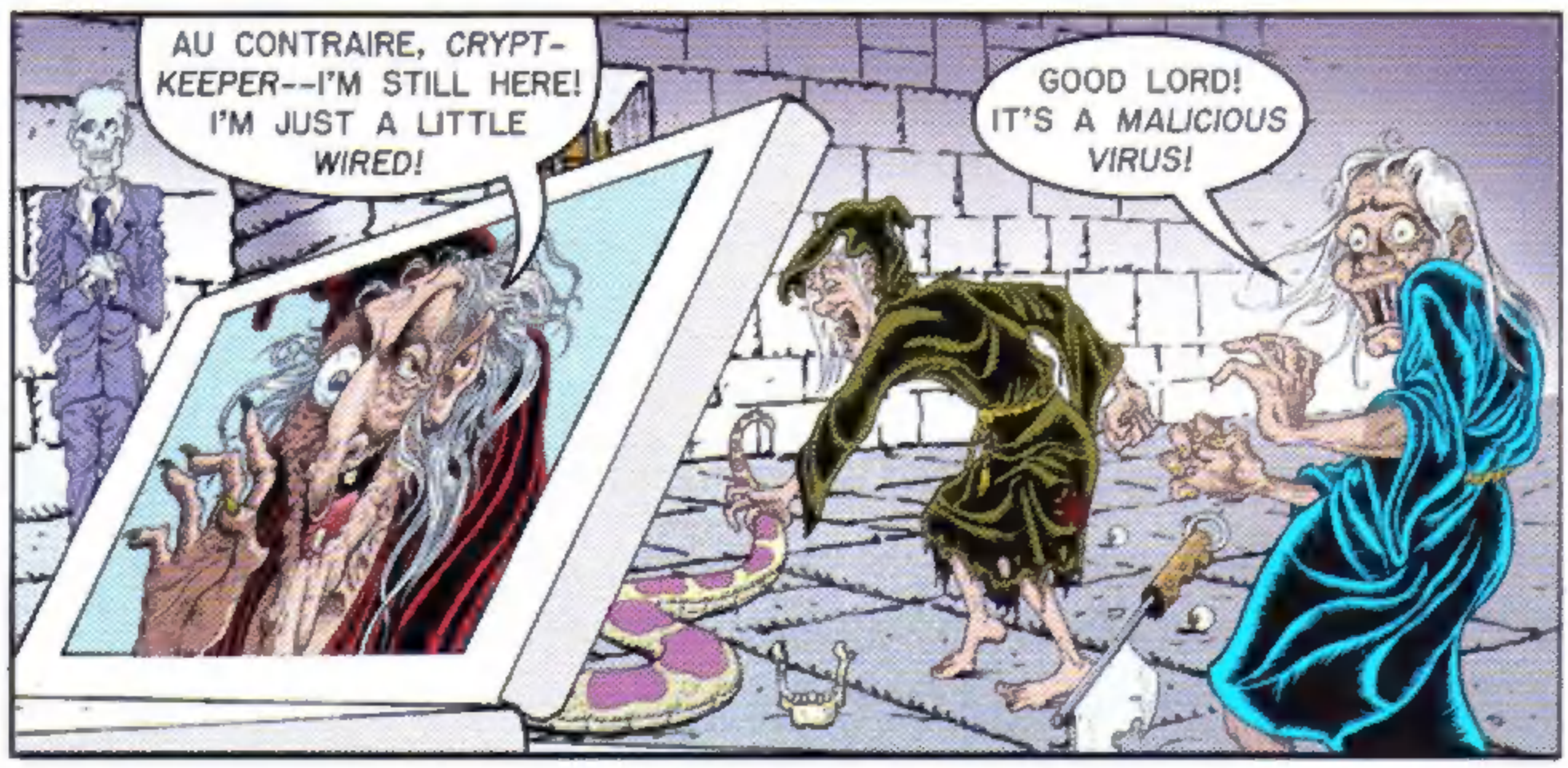
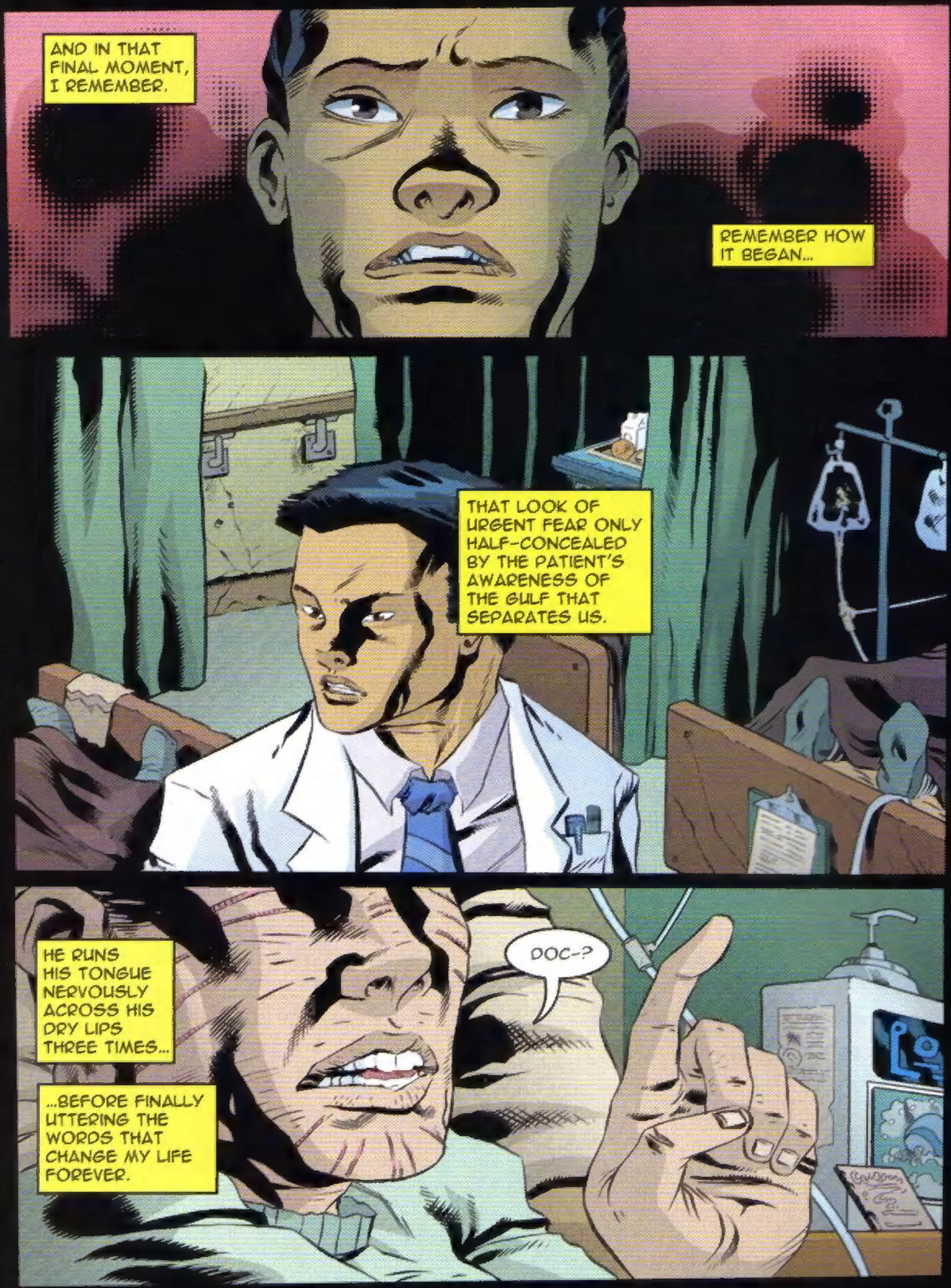
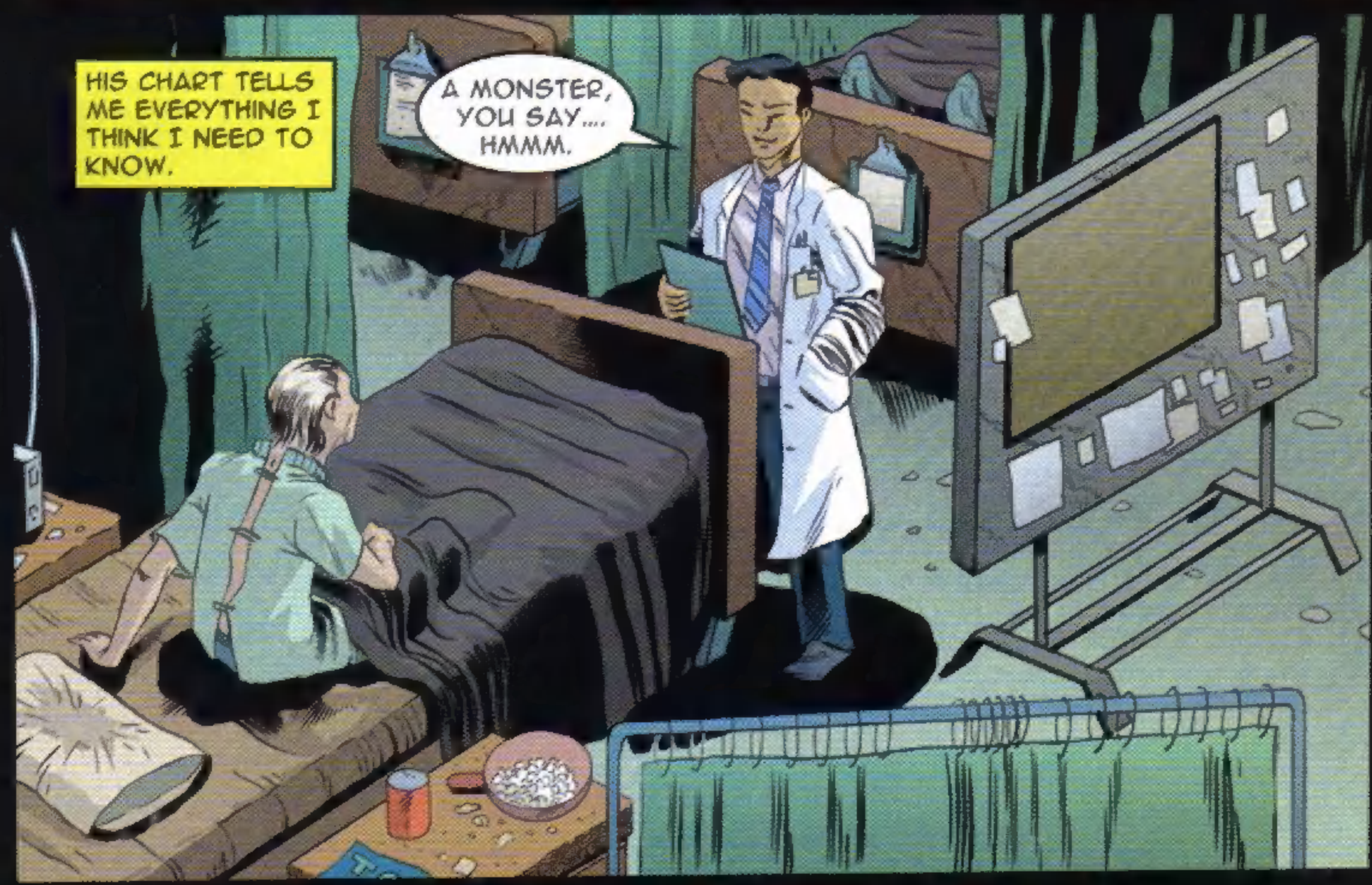
THE CRYPT OF TERROR

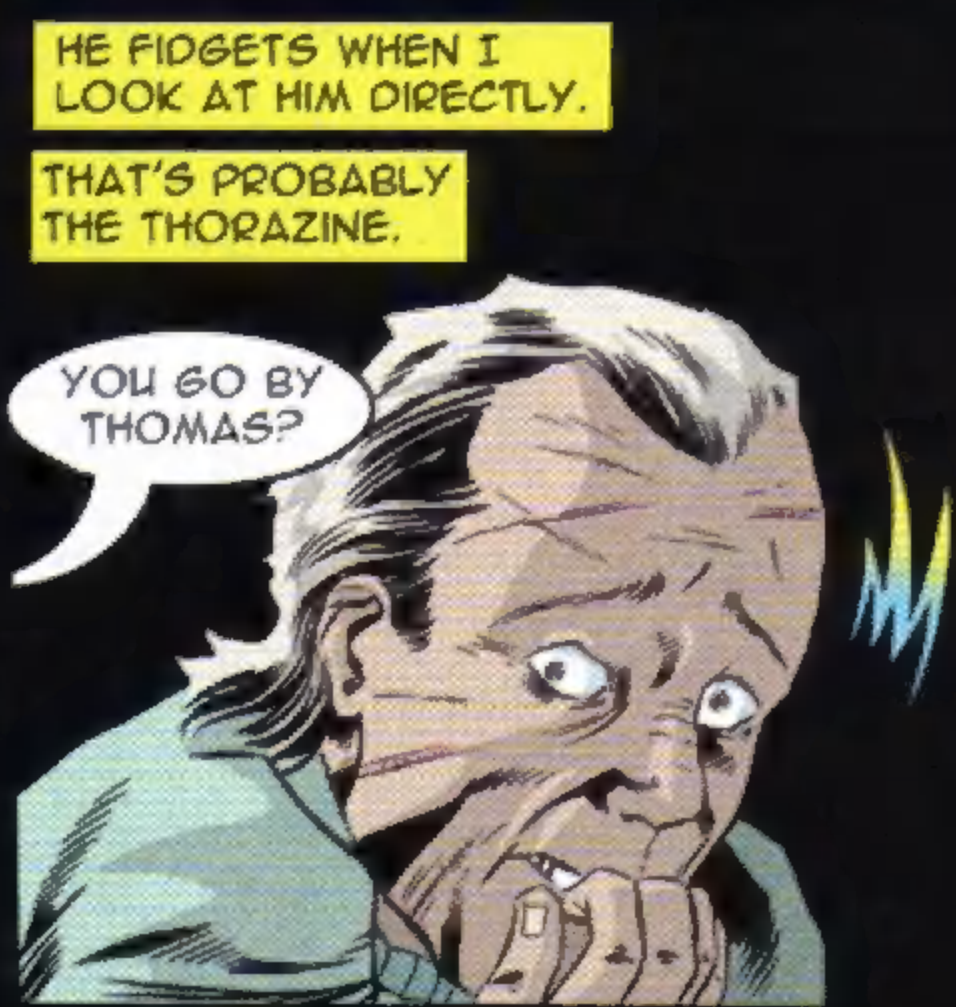


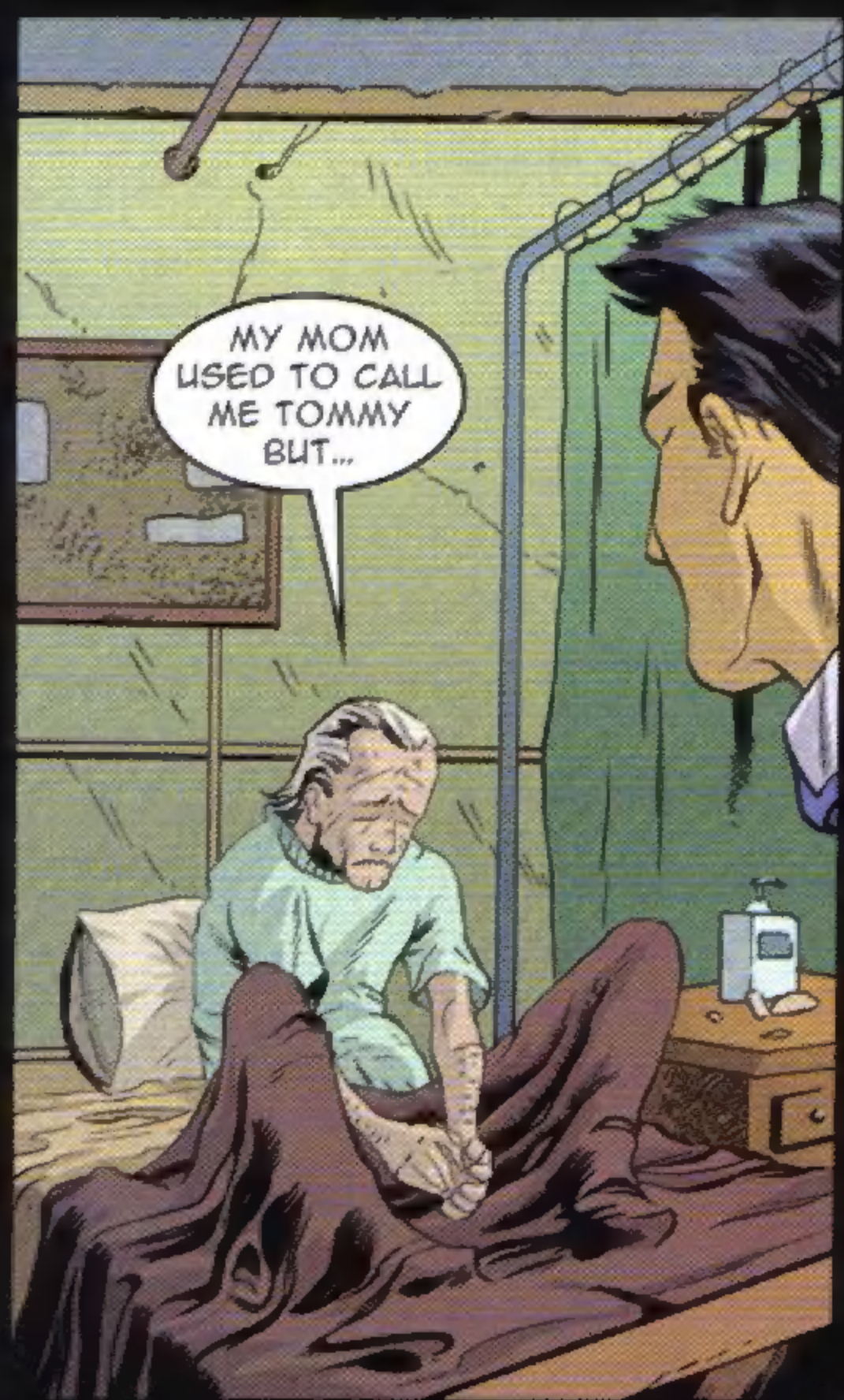

AND IN THAT FINAL MOMENT, I REMEMBER.
REMEMBER HOW IT BEGAN...
THAT LOOK OF URGENT FEAR ONLY HALF-CONCEALED BY THE PATIENT'S AWARENESS OF THE GULF THAT SEPARATES US.
HE RUNS HIS TONGUE NERVOUSLY ACROSS HIS DRY LIPS THREE TIMES...
...BEFORE FINALLY UTTERING THE WORDS THAT CHANGE MY LIFE FOREVER.
DOC-?

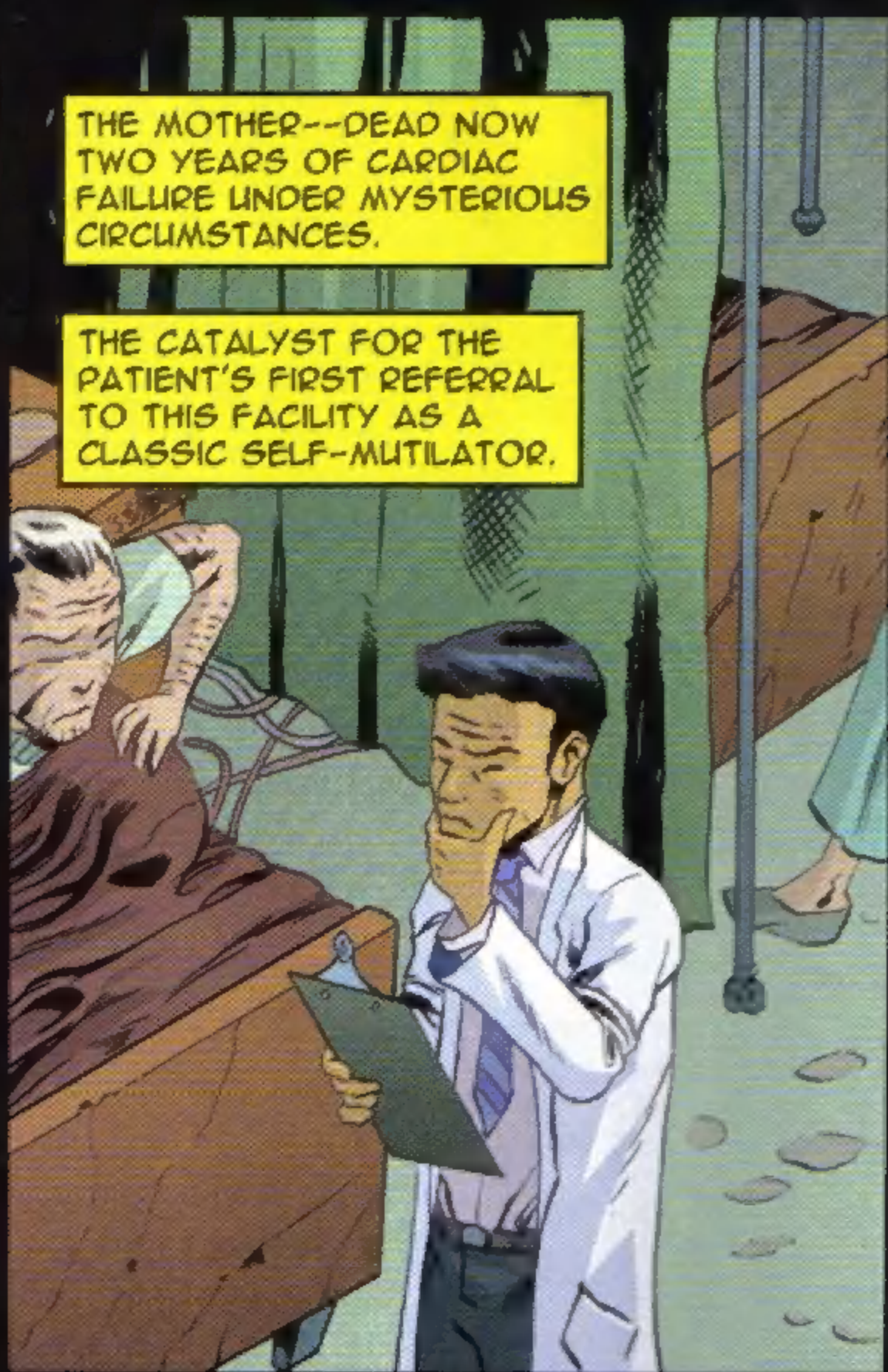
I THINK THAT THERE IS A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER LOOSE ON THIS WARD.


HIS CHART TELLS ME EVERYTHING I THINK I NEED TO KNOW.
A MONSTER, YOU SAY.... HMMM.

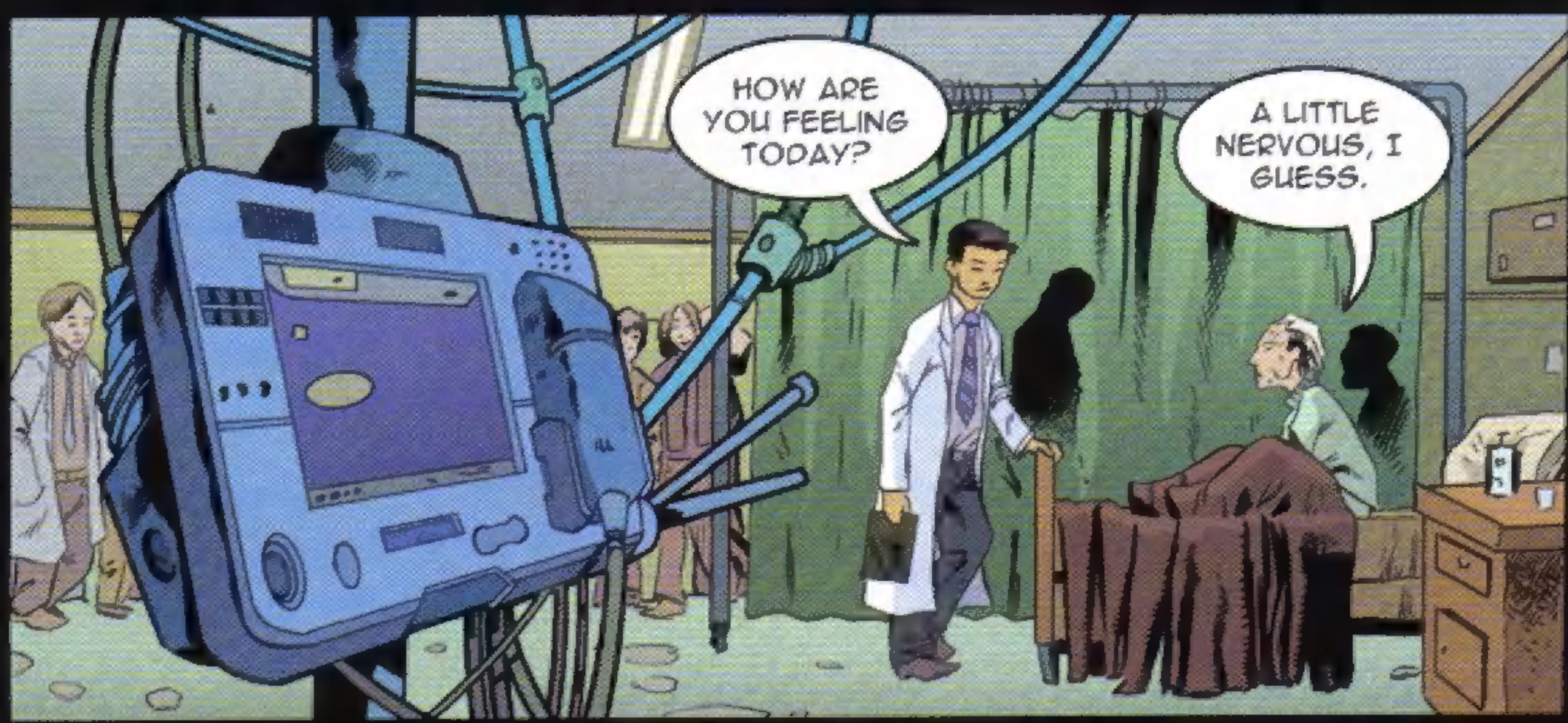
MR...DONALLEY --IS IT?


HE FIDGETS WHEN I LOOK AT HIM DIRECTLY.
THAT'S PROBABLY THE THORAZINE.
YOU GO BY THOMAS?


MY MOM USED TO CALL ME TOMMY BUT...


THE MOTHER--DEAD NOW TWO YEARS OF CARDIAC FAILURE UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE CATALYST FOR THE PATIENT'S FIRST REFERRAL TO THIS FACILITY AS A CLASSIC SELF-MUTILATOR.

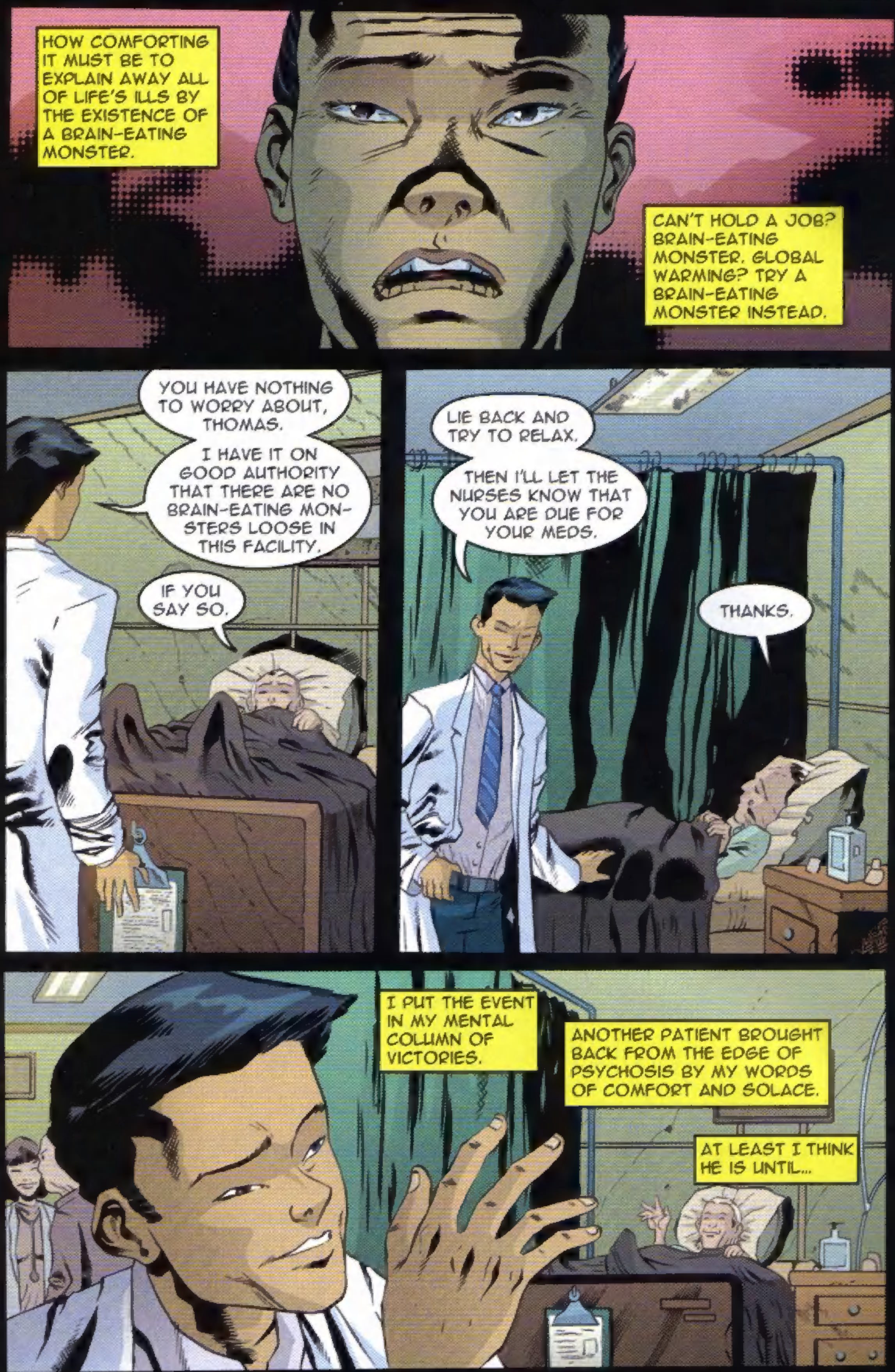
ONLY THIS ONE BLAMES HIS BREAKTHROUGH EPISODE ON A SUPERNATURALLY CURSED "FULLY POSEABLE, MICRO-ARTICULATED ACTION FIGURE." WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
I ELECT TO ENGAGE HIM.
SO.... THOMAS--

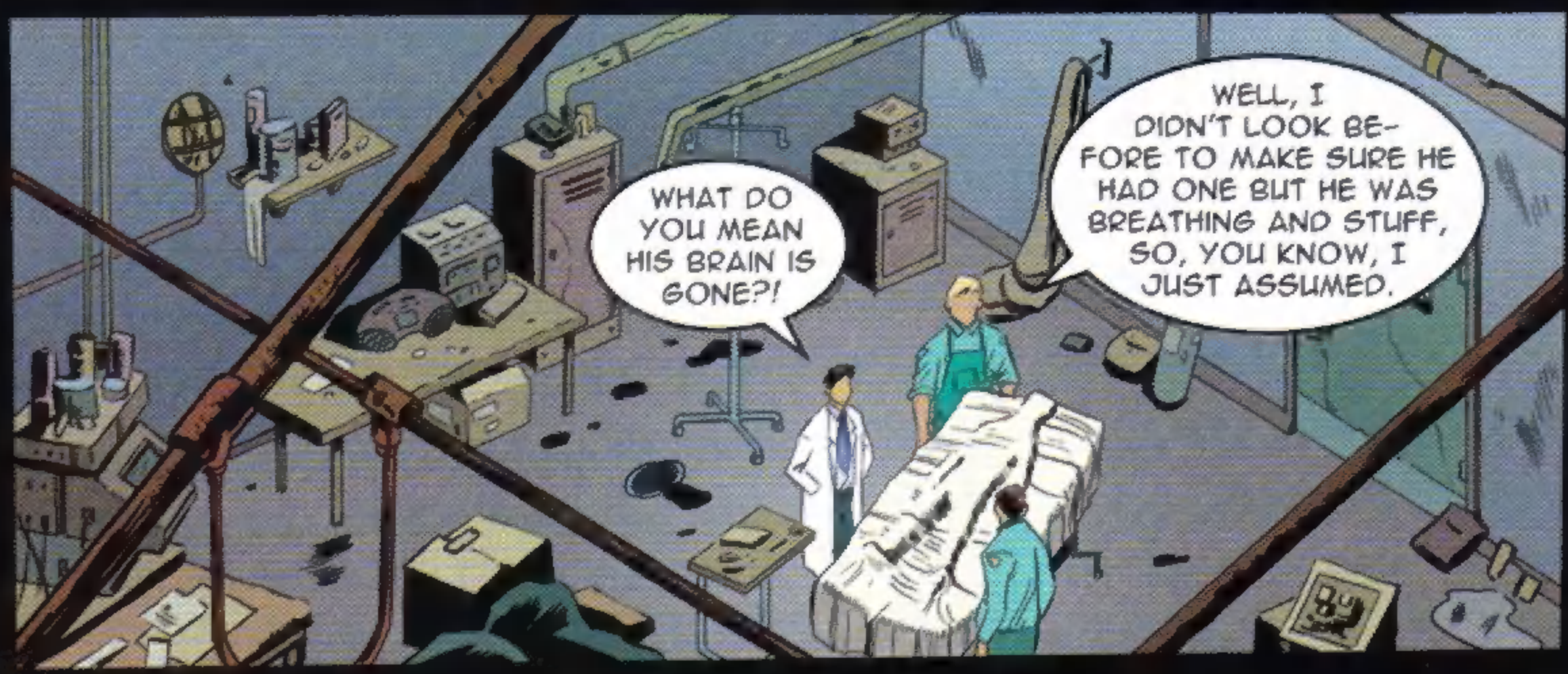

HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
A LITTLE NERVOUS, I GUESS.

NERVOUS?
AND WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

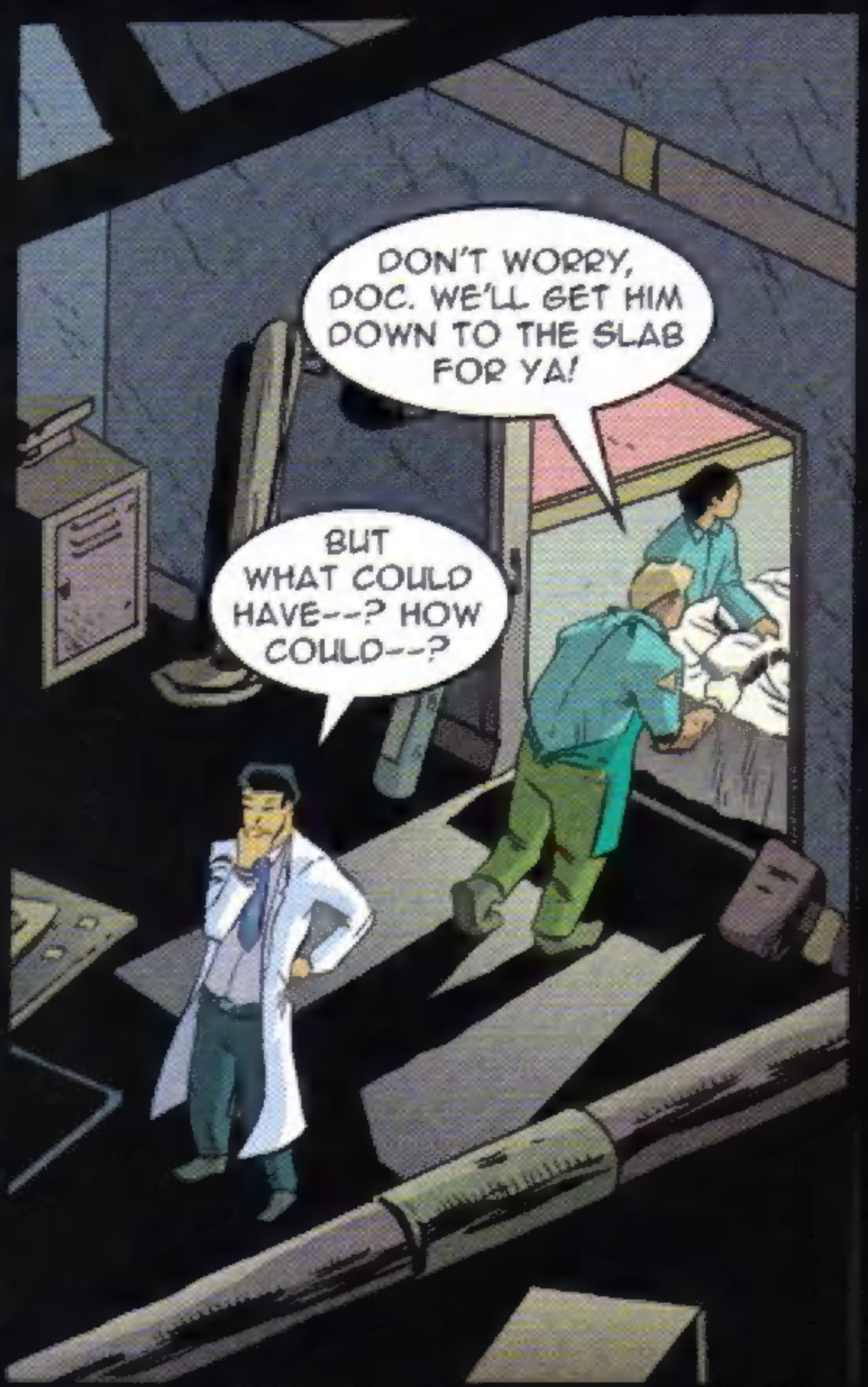
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE BRAIN-EATING MONSTER THAT IS LOOSE IN THE WARD...

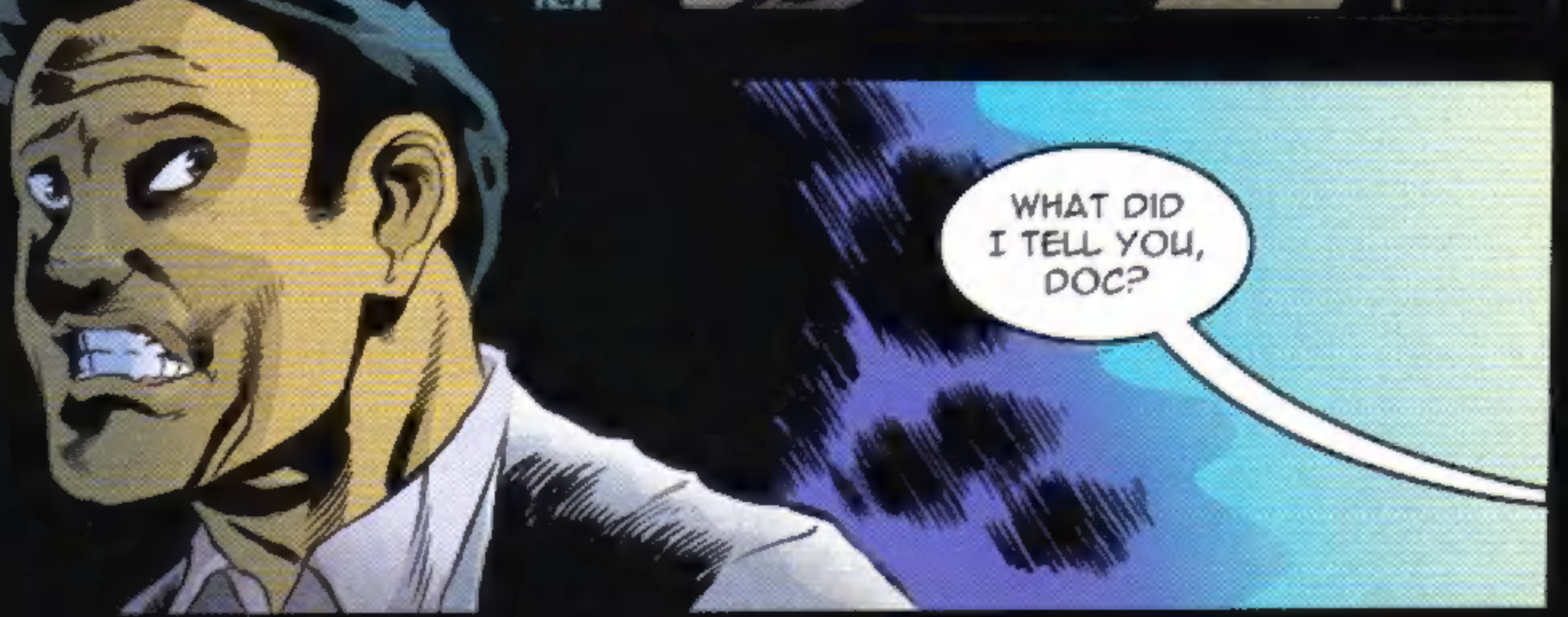
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S MAYBE THE THORAZINE?
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S THE BRAIN-EATING MONSTER, ACTUALLY.

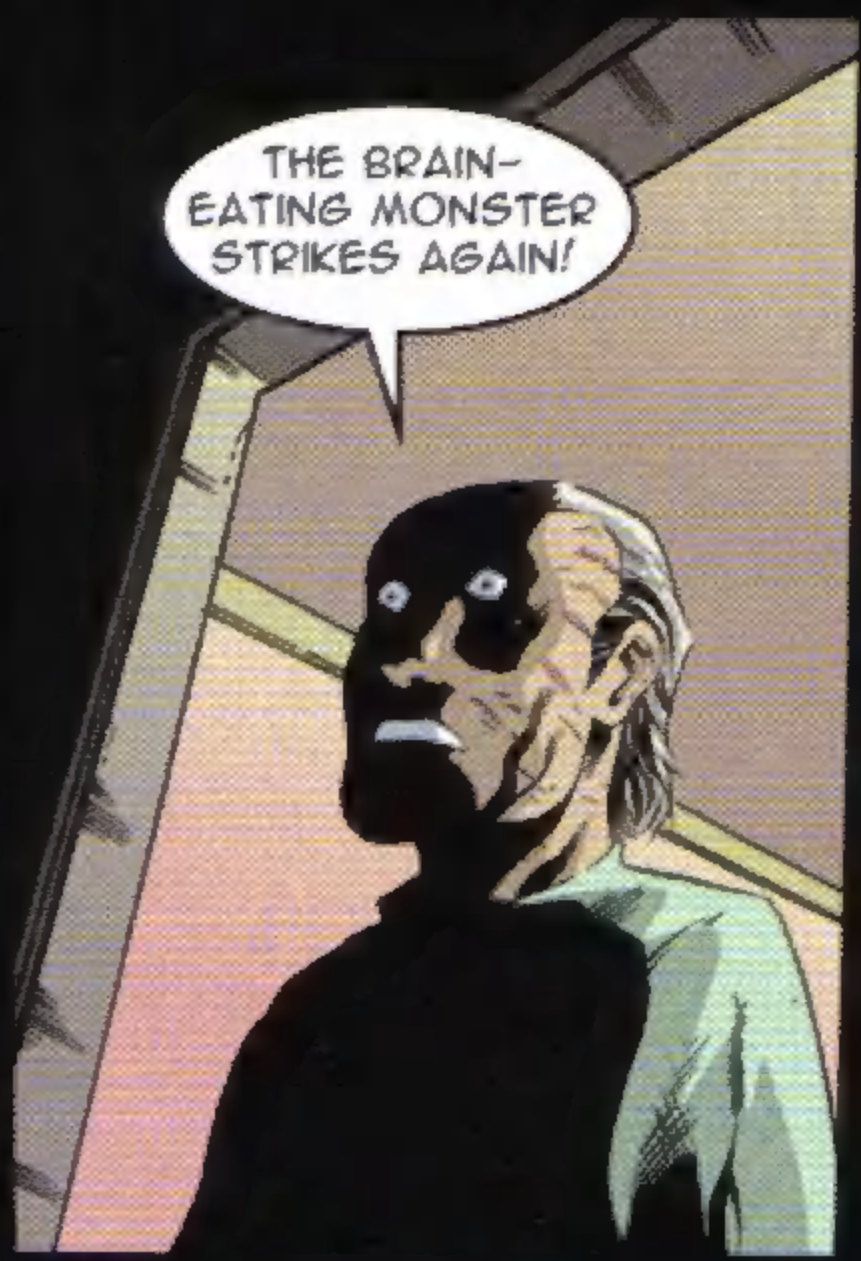

HOW COMFORTING IT MUST BE TO EXPLAIN AWAY ALL OF LIFE'S ILLS BY THE EXISTENCE OF A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER.
CAN'T HOLD A JOB? BRAIN-EATING MONSTER. GLOBAL WARMING? TRY A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER INSTEAD.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, THOMAS.
I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THERE ARE NO BRAIN-EATING MONSTERS LOOSE IN THIS FACILITY.
IF YOU SAY SO.
LIE BACK AND TRY TO RELAX.
THEN I'LL LET THE NURSES KNOW THAT YOU ARE DUE FOR YOUR MEDS.
THANKS.
I PUT THE EVENT IN MY MENTAL COLUMN OF VICTORIES.
ANOTHER PATIENT BROUGHT BACK FROM THE EDGE OF PSYCHOSIS BY MY WORDS OF COMFORT AND SOLACE.
AT LEAST I THINK HE IS UNTIL...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN HIS BRAIN IS GONE?!
WELL, I DIDN'T LOOK BEFORE TO MAKE SURE HE HAD ONE BUT HE WAS BREATHING AND STUFF, SO, YOU KNOW, I JUST ASSUMED.

BUT, WOW, HE IS TOTALLY BRAINLESS NOW FOR SURE.
ONCE INSANE, NOW HE'S GOT NO BRAIN!
BUH-? WHA-?


DON'T WORRY, DOC. WE'LL GET HIM DOWN TO THE SLAB FOR YA!
BUT WHAT COULD HAVE--? HOW COULD--?


WHAT DID I TELL YOU, DOC?

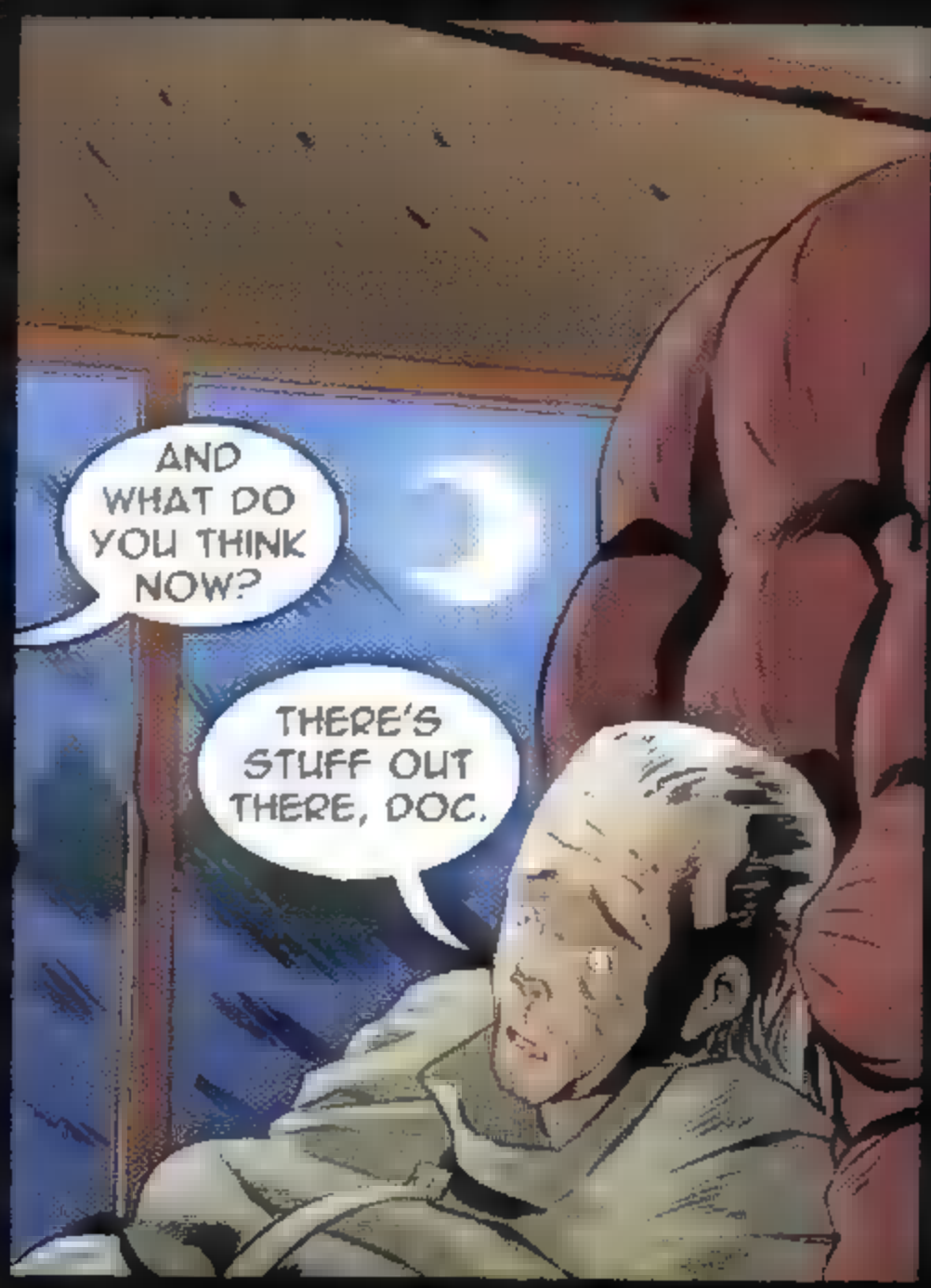

THE BRAIN-EATING MONSTER STRIKES AGAIN!

PERHAPS, IN LIGHT OF WHAT CAME AFTER, I CAN SEE HOW MY RESPONSE TO THE PATIENT'S WARNINGS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS... DISPROPORTIONATE.
THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN, AND ROUGHLY, IF YOU LIKE...
HOT DOG!

OW! THAT SUCKED!
THAT'S GOOD, THOMAS.
DON'T BE AFRAID TO VOCALIZE YOUR MOST VIOLENT IMPULSES.

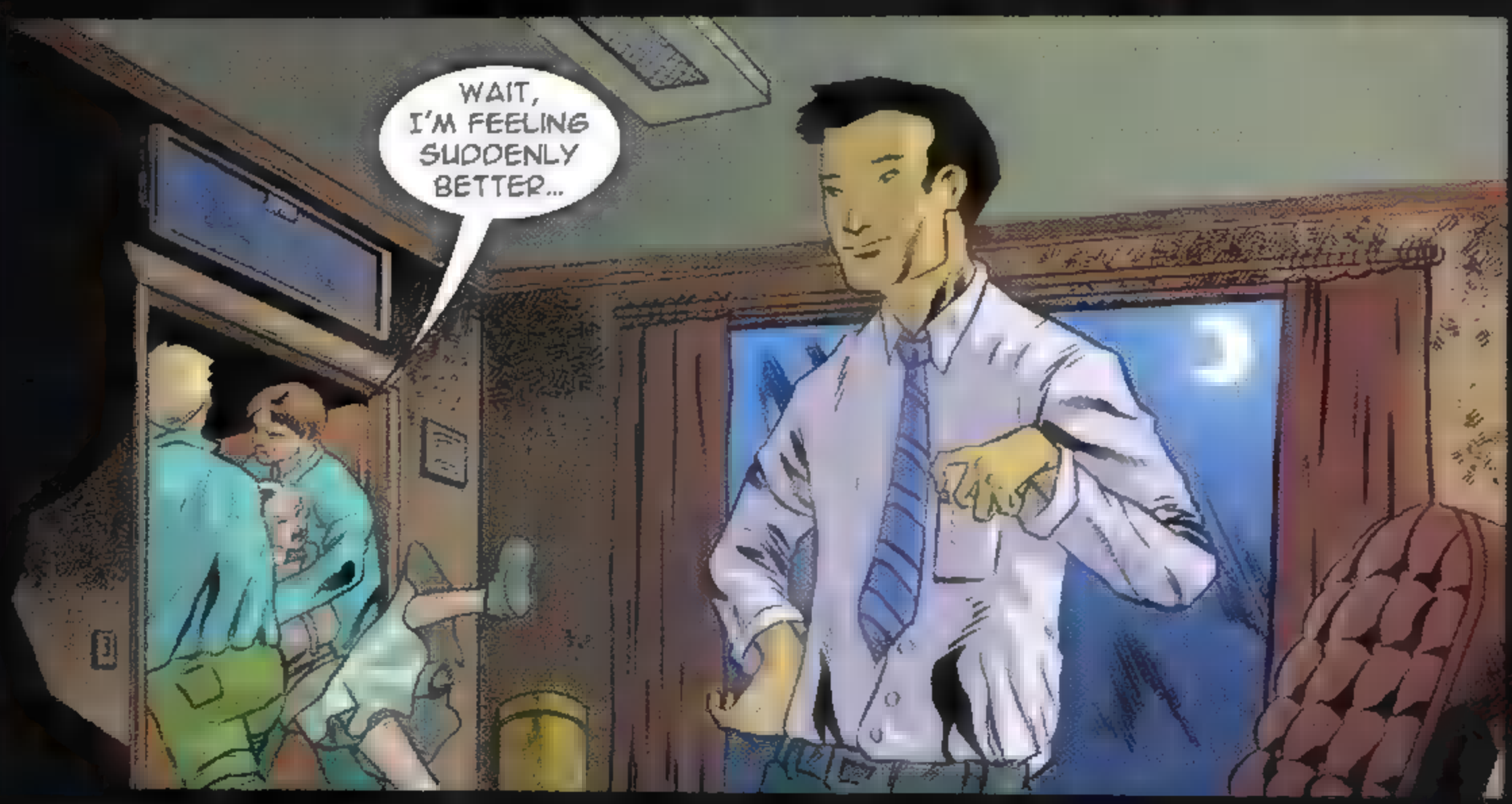
WHAT VIOLENT IMPULSES?
I JUST DON'T WANT MY BRAIN TO GET EATEN!
TUT, TUT, THOMAS.

WE BOTH KNOW THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I USED TO THINK, TOO.

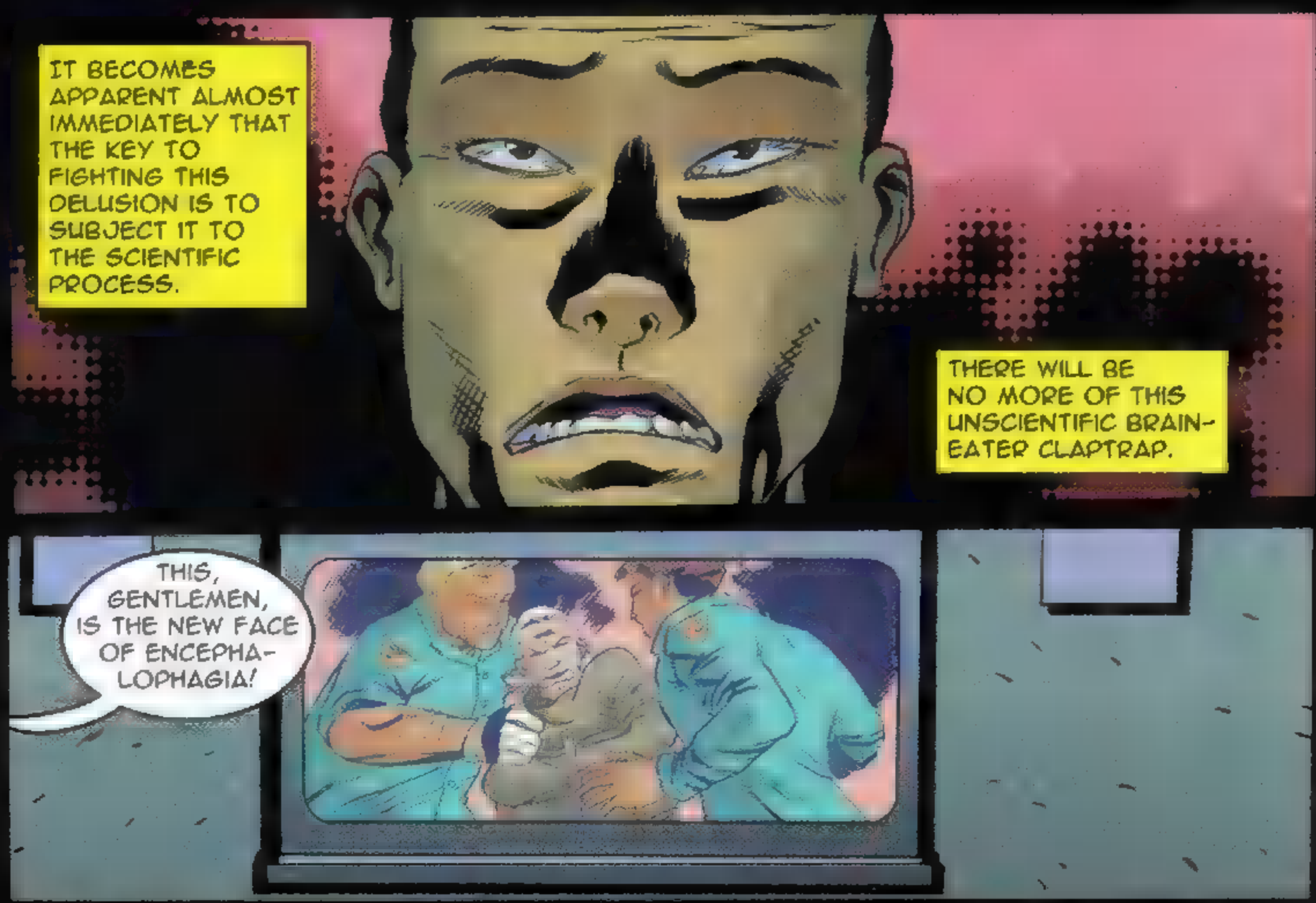

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?
THERE'S STUFF OUT THERE, DOC.

HORRORS JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO SLIP UP AND THEN...
AND THEN...

YOU BECOME A BRAIN-EATING MONSTER?



BUT WHAT IF THE MURDERS DON'T END THERE, THUS PROVING THAT THOMAS ISN'T THE SO-CALLED "BRAIN-EATER"?

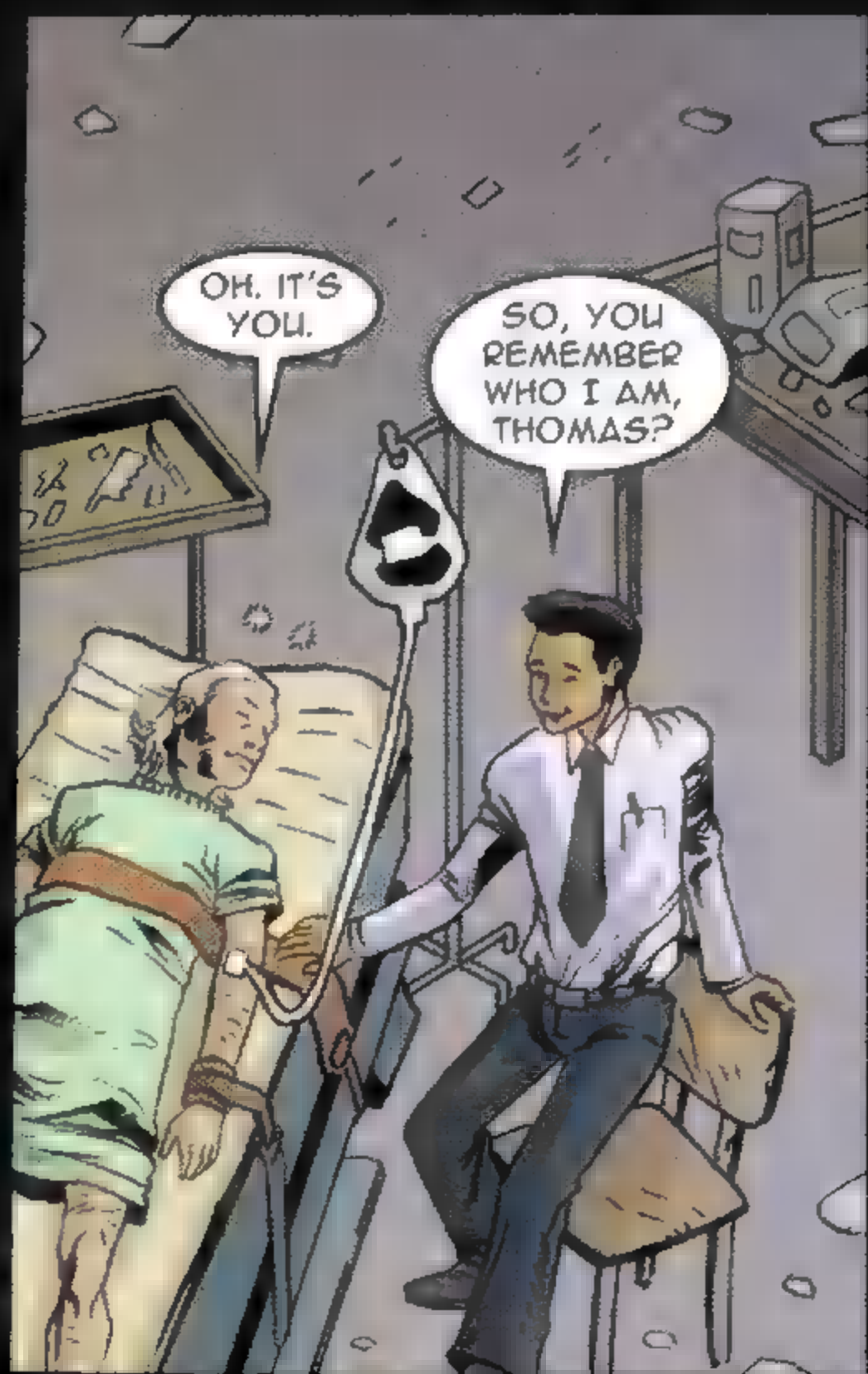

IT BECOMES APPARENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THAT THE KEY TO FIGHTING THIS DELUSION IS TO SUBJECT IT TO THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS.
THERE WILL BE NO MORE OF THIS UNSCIENTIFIC BRAIN-EATER CLAPTRAP.
THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS THE NEW FACE OF ENCEPHA-LOPHAGIA!
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THE OLD ONE LOOKED LIKE...
YOU ARE, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE OF THE CURIOUS STRING OF BRAIN EXTRACTIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED ON OUR WATCH OF LATE.
WELL, NOW THAT HE BRINGS IT UP...
I GUESS SIX IN A WEEK DOES CONSTITUTE SOME KIND OF PATTERN.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS AN OLD FACE OF ENCEPHALOPHAGIA?

GENTLEMEN!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR REFLECTION OR ETHICAL CAUTION!

WHAT THIS MOMENT CALLS FOR IS ACTION!
HEAR! HEAR!

IN POOLING ALL OF OUR RESOURCES, WE'LL TURN THE MEDEA INSTITUTE INTO *THE* DESTINATION FOR ENCEPHALOPHAGES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!
AND WHO WILL WE HAVE TO THANK?

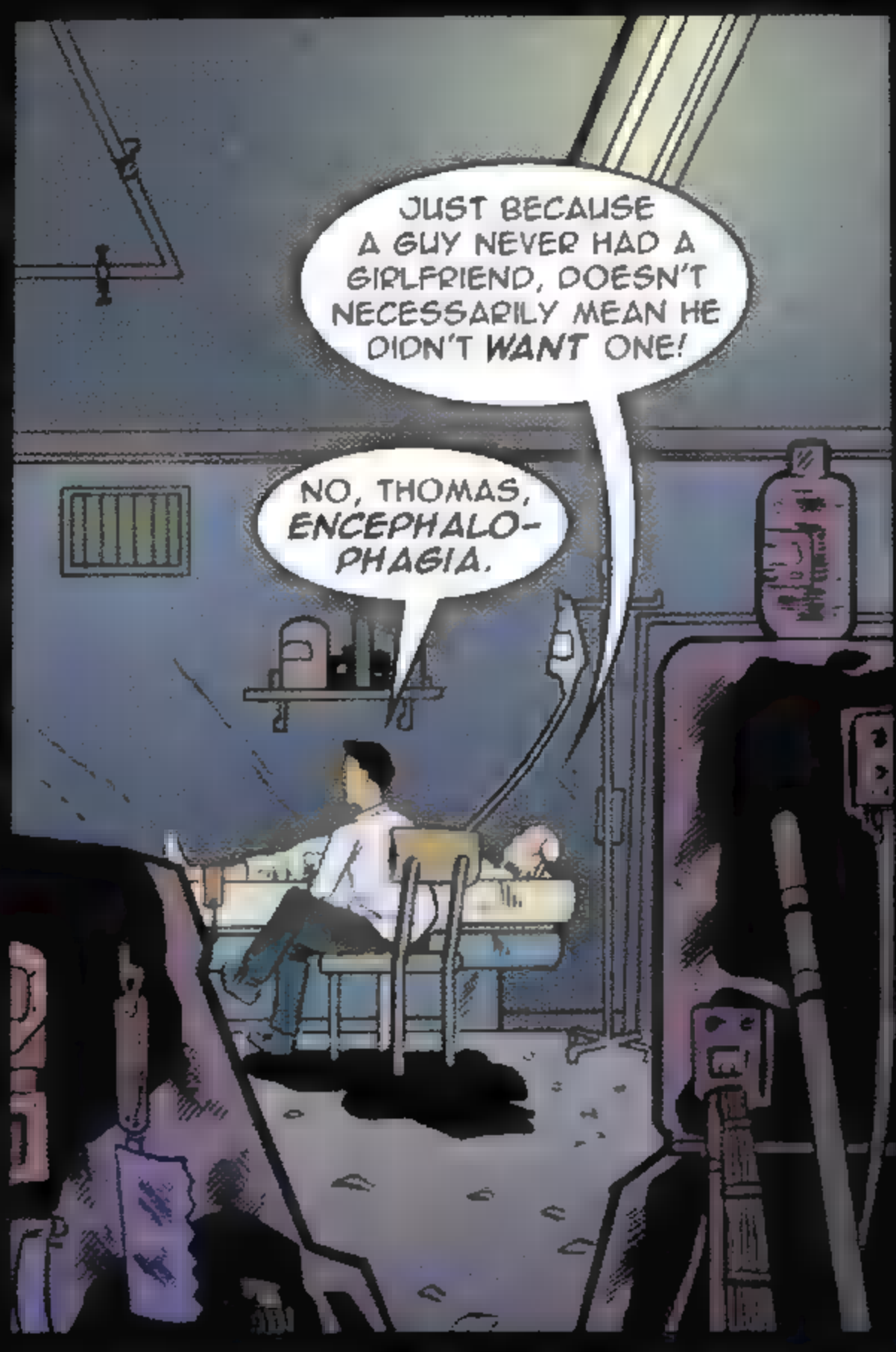
THOMAS?
I'M SORRY I ATE YOUR LEMON DROPS.


OH. IT'S YOU.
SO, YOU REMEMBER WHO I AM, THOMAS?

YEAH.
YOU ARE THE JERK THAT KEEPS ORDERING PEOPLE TO DO MESSED-UP STUFF TO ME.

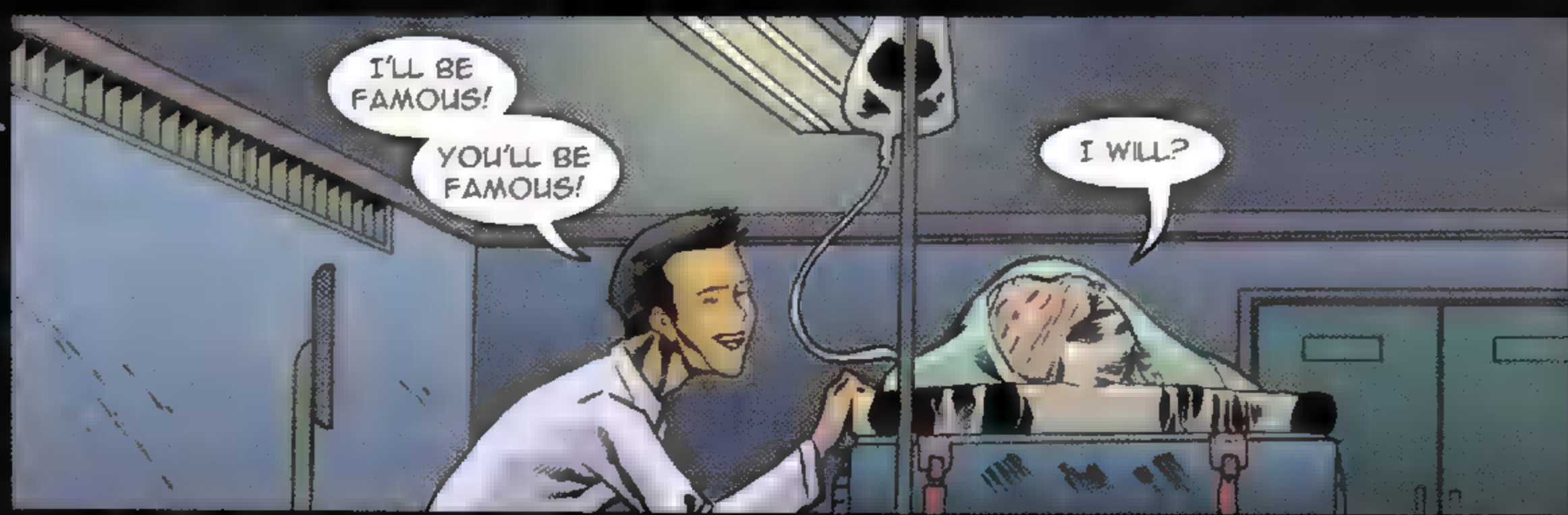
I GUESS THAT WOULD MAKE ME SEEM LIKE KIND OF A JERK, HUH?
WHATEVER. ARE YOU GOING TO UNTIE ME?

ALL IN DUE TIME, MY BOY.
FIRST, LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR ENCEPHALOPHAGIC URGES.


JUST BECAUSE A GUY NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND, DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN HE DIDN'T *WANT* ONE!
NO, THOMAS, *ENCEPHALO-PHAGIA.*

BRAIN-EATING, THOMAS. IT MEANS BRAIN-EATING.
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I DIDN'T EAT ANYONE'S BRAIN...

OH, I DON'T DISPUTE THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND. BUT IMAGINE IF YOU WERE EXPERIENCING A COMPLETE PSYCHOTIC BREAK WHERE YOU ARE ABLE TO ACT OUT YOUR MOST UNTHINKABLE IMPULSES WITH NO FEAR OF RECALL AFTERWARDS.


I'LL BE FAMOUS!
YOU'LL BE FAMOUS!
I WILL?

DOCTORS WILL WANT TO COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO STUDY YOUR UNIQUE CASE.
WOW, WILL THEIR HANDS LEAVE COOL LIGHT TRAILS IN THE AIR LIKE YOURS DO?

THE MEDEA INSTITUTE WILL BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE MOST CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH INTO THE EXTREMITIES OF THE HUMAN PSYCHE!
BUT BEFORE ANY OF THAT CAN HAPPEN, YOU AND I HAVE VITAL WORK THAT MUST BE DONE!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THERE'S SO MANY OF YOU...
DOCTOR ANDERS!! COME QUICK!!

SOME PATIENTS WILL BE LOST AND SOME WILL BE SAVED. THAT'S THE CURRENCY OF FAILURE WHEN YOU ARE A DOCTOR.

BUT WHAT MEANING ARE WE TO TAKE...

...WHEN IT IS THE DOCTORS WHO ARE LOST?

I D-DON'T UNDERSTAND...

JUST LIKE BEFORE, DOC.

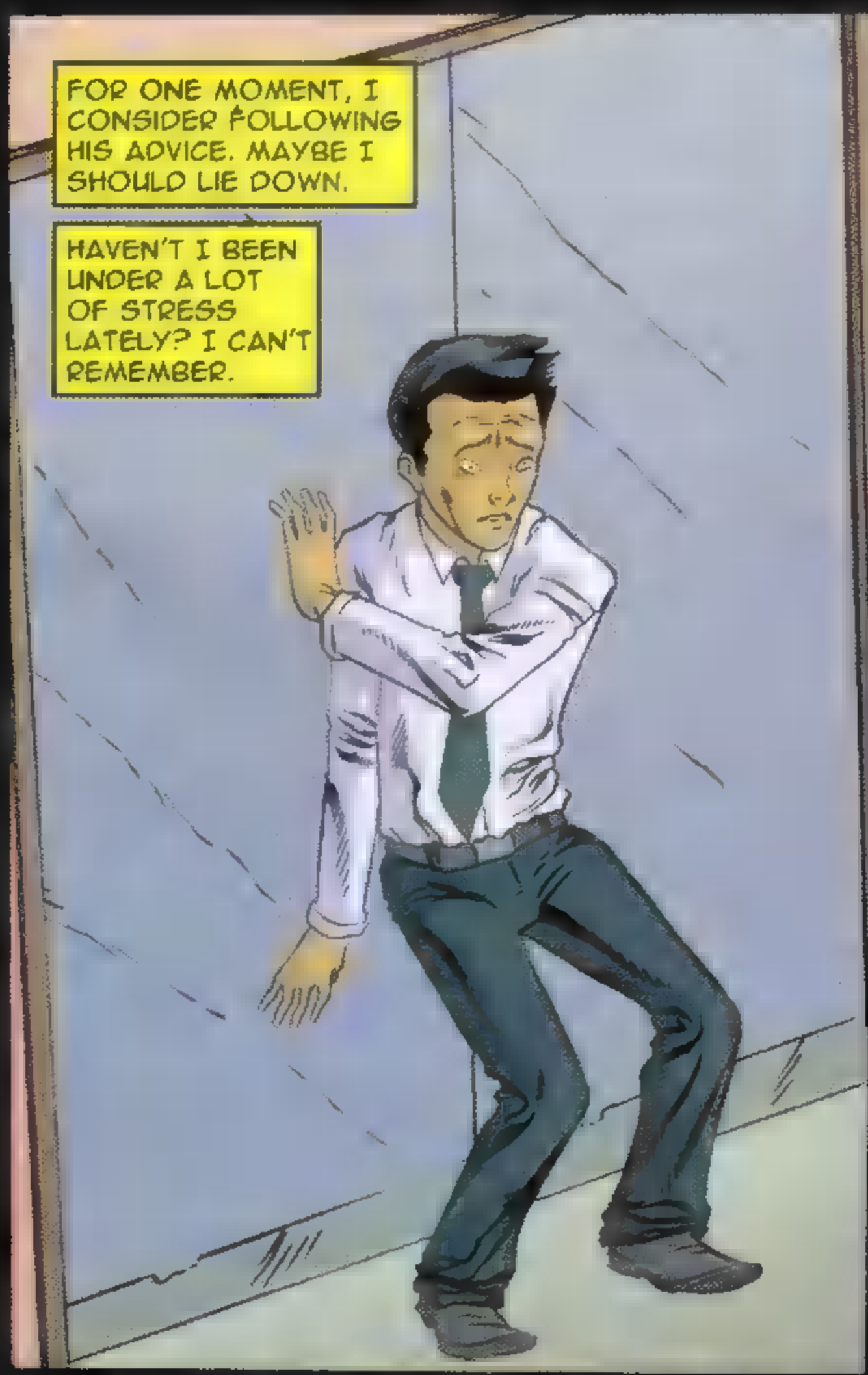
NOT A BRAIN TO PIECE TOGETHER BETWEEN THEM.

SUCH... BRILLIANT MINDS.

REDUCED TO WHAT?

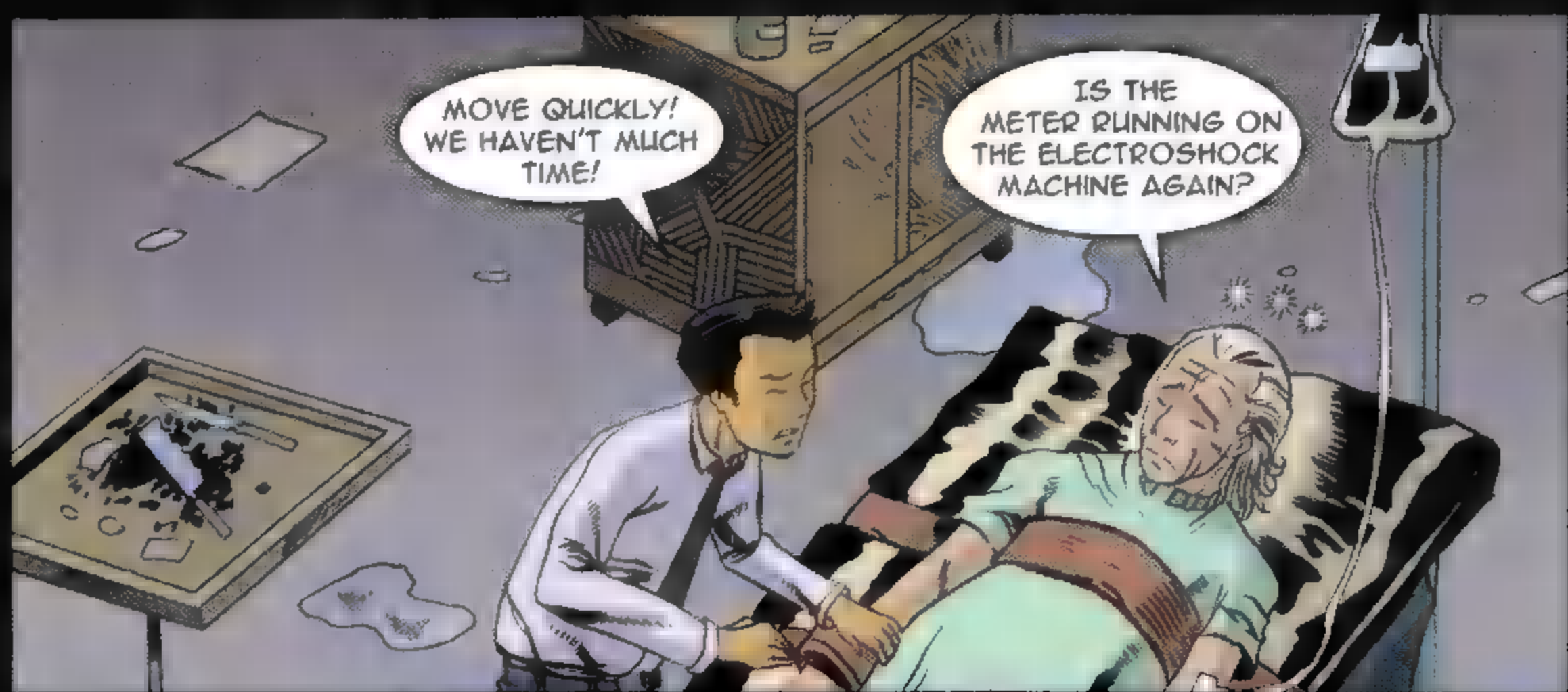
FOOD?

LOOK, DOC, WE'VE ALREADY CALLED THE COPS AND THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY. BETTER THAT YOU JUST GO LIE DOWN UNTIL THEY GET HERE.


FOR ONE MOMENT, I CONSIDER FOLLOWING HIS ADVICE. MAYBE I SHOULD LIE DOWN.
HAVEN'T I BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY? I CAN'T REMEMBER.

THEN I REALIZE...
THAT'S JUST WHAT IT WANTS ME TO DO. THINK RATIONALLY.
LAY DOWN. CLOSE MY EYES AND WAIT.

AND SO, INSTEAD, I DO SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING CRAZY.
THOMAS? IT'S ME. DOCTOR ANDERS. WAKE UP!
HUH?


MOVE QUICKLY! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!
IS THE METER RUNNING ON THE ELECTROSHOCK MACHINE AGAIN?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, THOMAS?
YOU WERE RIGHT! YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG!
I WAS?

IT'S A CYNICAL APHORISM BUT ONE, IN THIS CASE, I HOPE WILL ENSURE THAT I LIVE TO NEVER SPEAK OF THESE HORRORS AGAIN.
YES, NOW GET YOUR SLIPPERS ON.
OW! WAS THAT ATTACHED?

IF EVER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE WILDERNESS WITH A FRIEND...

WHERE'RE WE GOIN'?

JUST TRY TO FOCUS ON STAYING AWAKE. I'M TAKING YOU OUT OF THIS FACILITY ON MY AUTHORITY.

AND YOU JUST SO HAPPEN TO FIND YOURSELVES CONFRONTED BY A GRIZZLY BEAR...

I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

JUST A FEW MORE YARDS, THOMAS.

JUST REMEMBER...

THE EMERGENCY LOCKS HAVE ENGAGED!

WHICH *KEY?*

THE FOOTRACE ISN'T BETWEEN YOU AND THE BEAR...

UH, DOC?

IT'S YOUR FRIEND YOU'RE RACING DOWN...

MMMMMMUNNNGH

AND IN THAT FINAL MOMENT, I REMEMBER...

>NNNGH<

Y-YOU KILLED HIM!

MMMMMM DELICIOUS

STAY AWAY FROM ME! I'M SUPER RELIGIOUS!

MMMMM...

HATE TO BE A SNOB ABOUT IT
BUT I'M SOMETHING OF A CONNOISSEUR

AND AT THIS POINT, YOU DON'T EVEN RATE AS AN AFTER-DINNER MINT

WOW.
IT'S LIKE I'M TOO STUPID TO DIE.

COOL...

POOR THOMAS--
>SOB<--NO ONE
WANTS HIM-->SOB<
--NOT EVEN A
BRAIN-EATING
MONSTER!

WHAT DO
I CARE ABOUT
THAT *LOSER?*

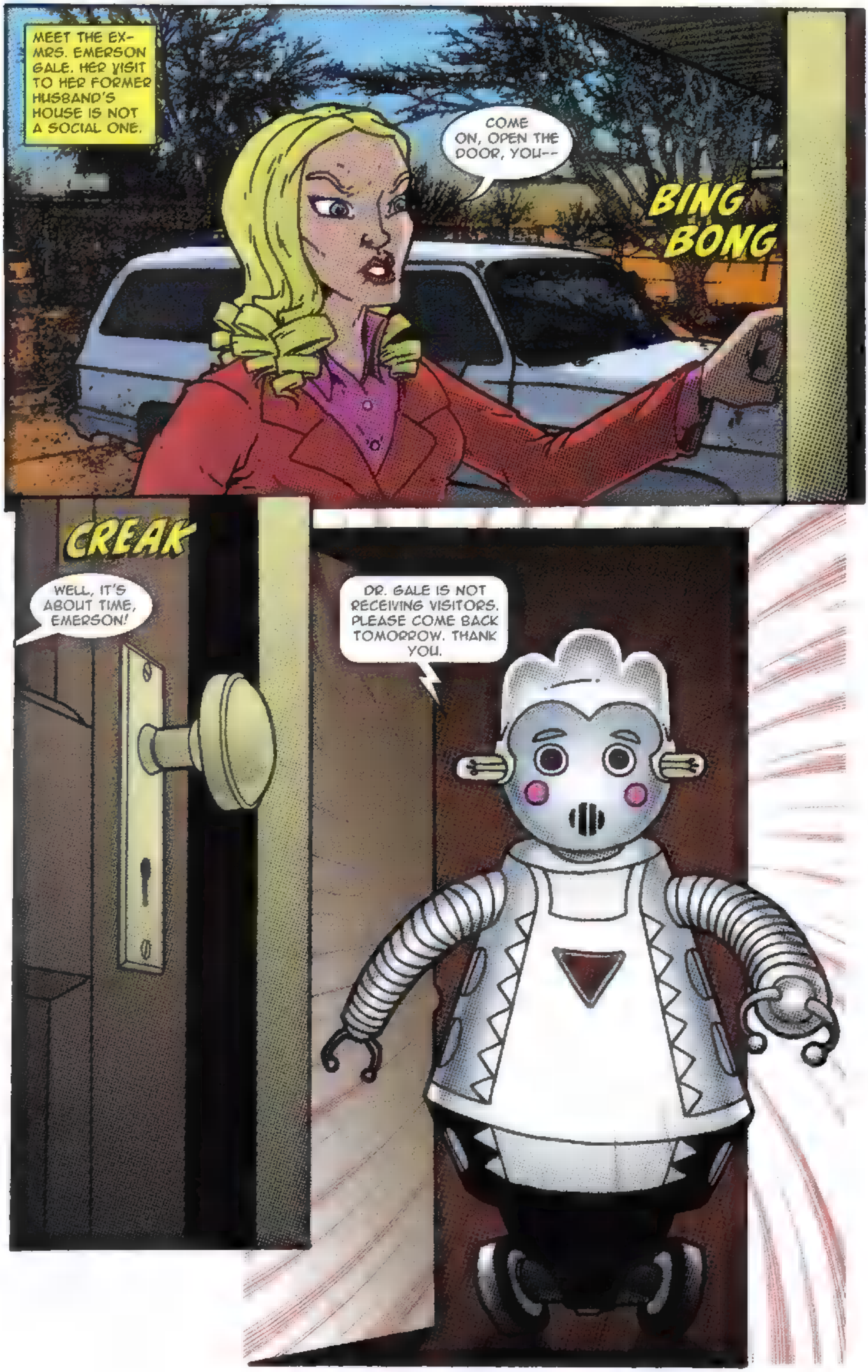
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING
TO DO ABOUT THE
DISGUSTING DETRITUS
YOU LEFT HERE?

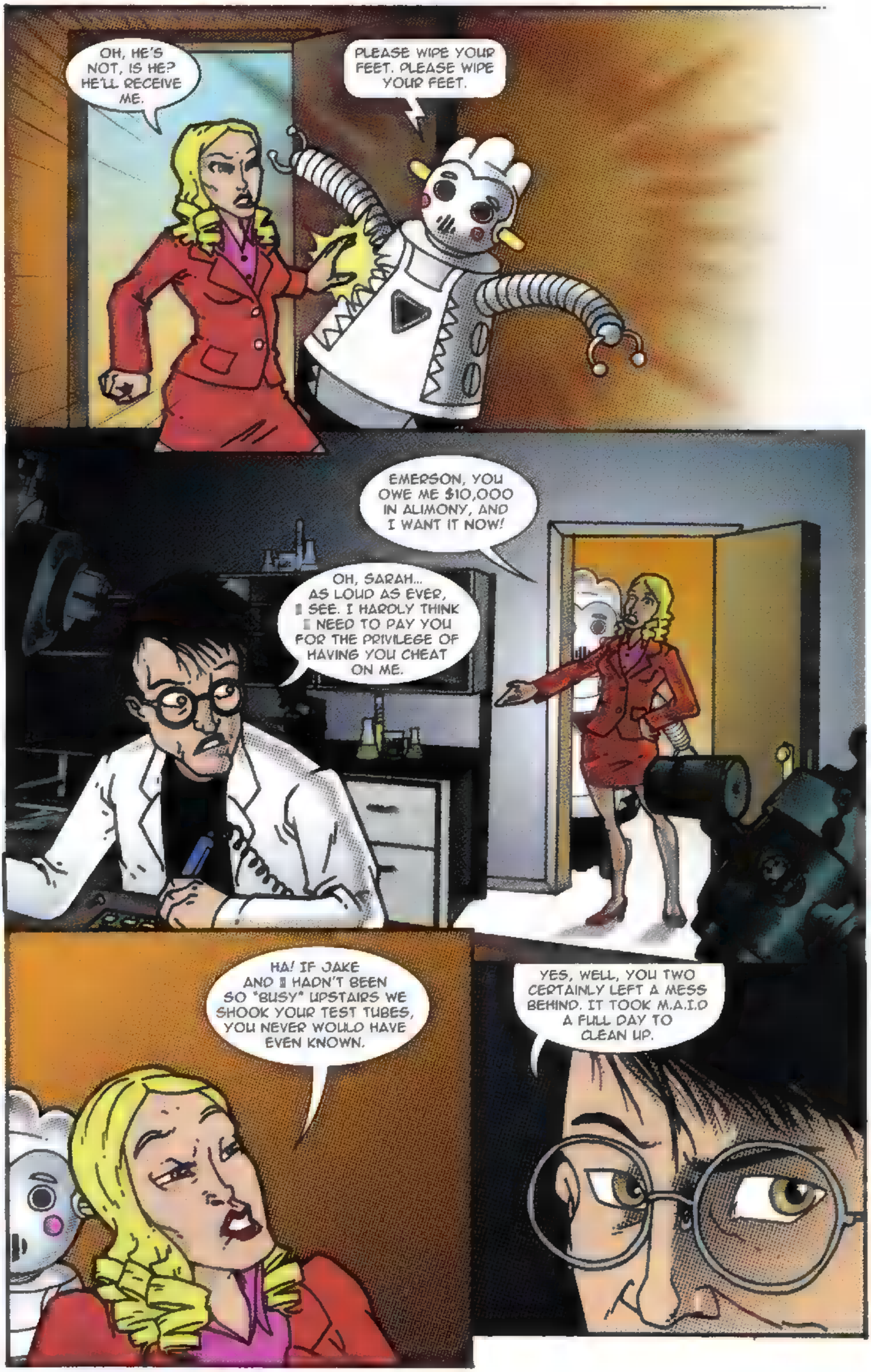
THANKS TO
YOU I CAN KISS MY
GOOD CRYPT-KEEPING
SEAL OF APPROVAL
GOOD-BYE!

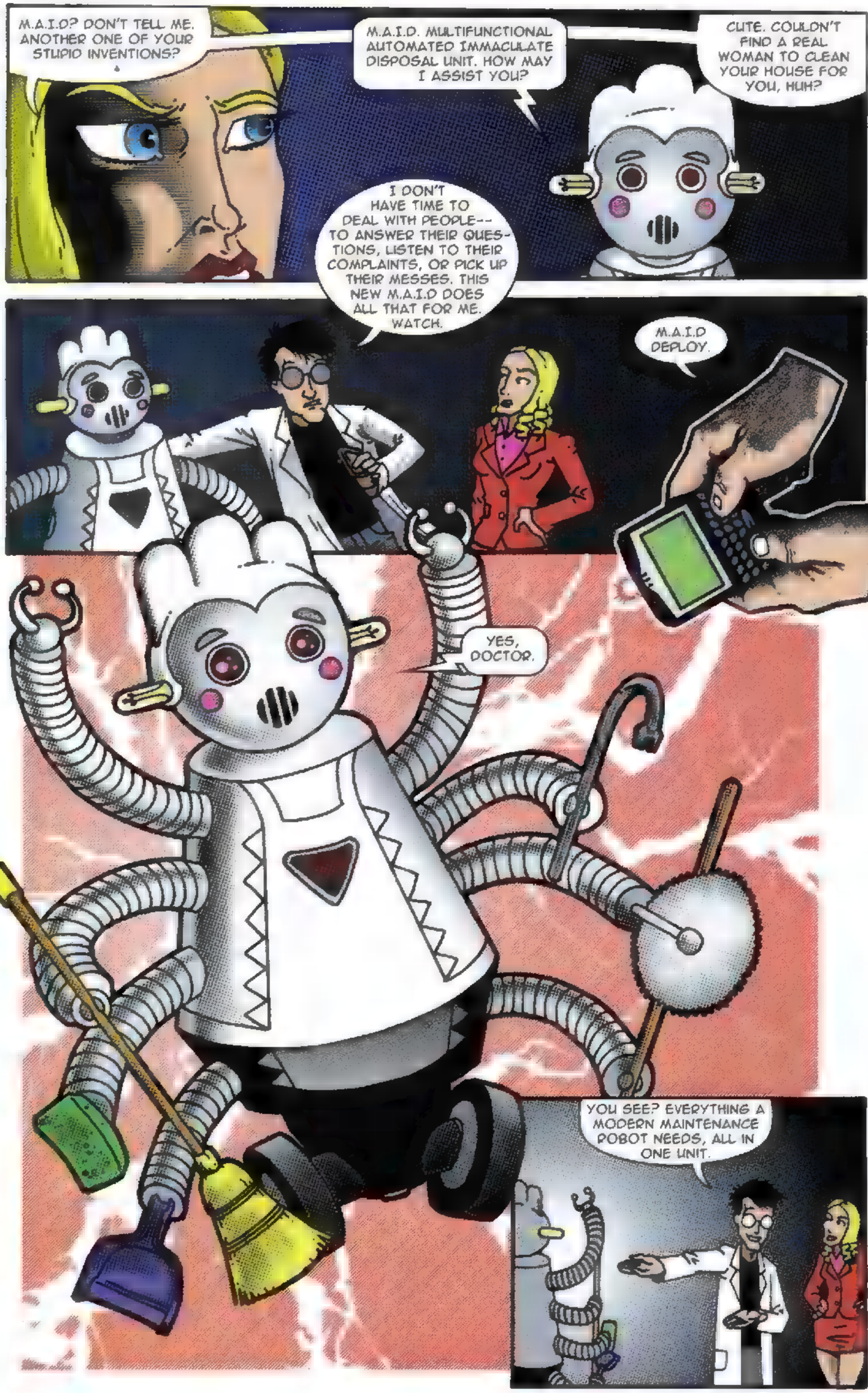
ARE YOU
NUTS, C-K?!

DON'T BRING HER BACK! I KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT YOU NEED TO CLEAN UP YOUR
CRYPT! LET ME TELL YOU ALL
ABOUT HER IN
THIS CHILLING
TALE I CALL...

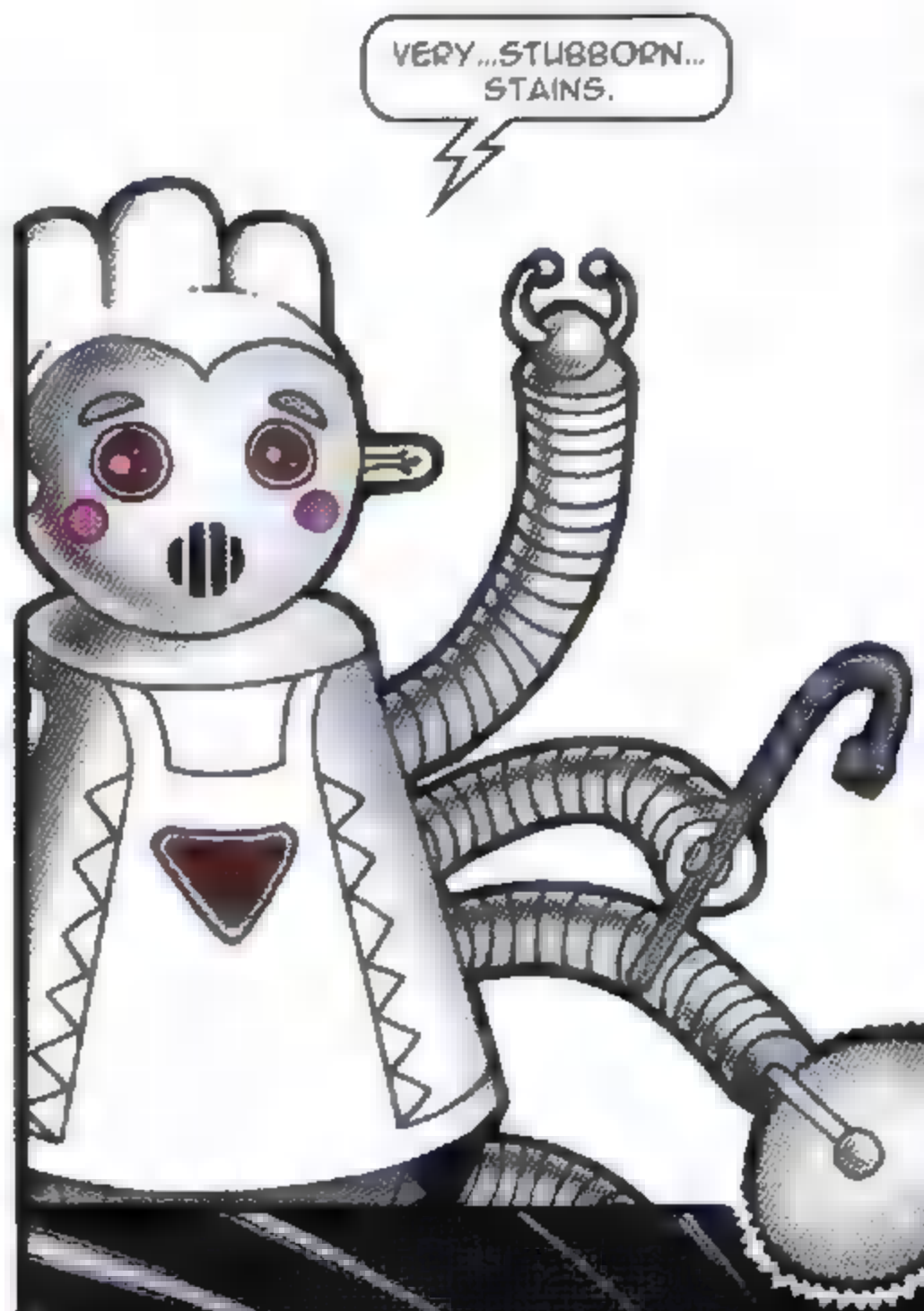
MURDER
M.A.I.D.

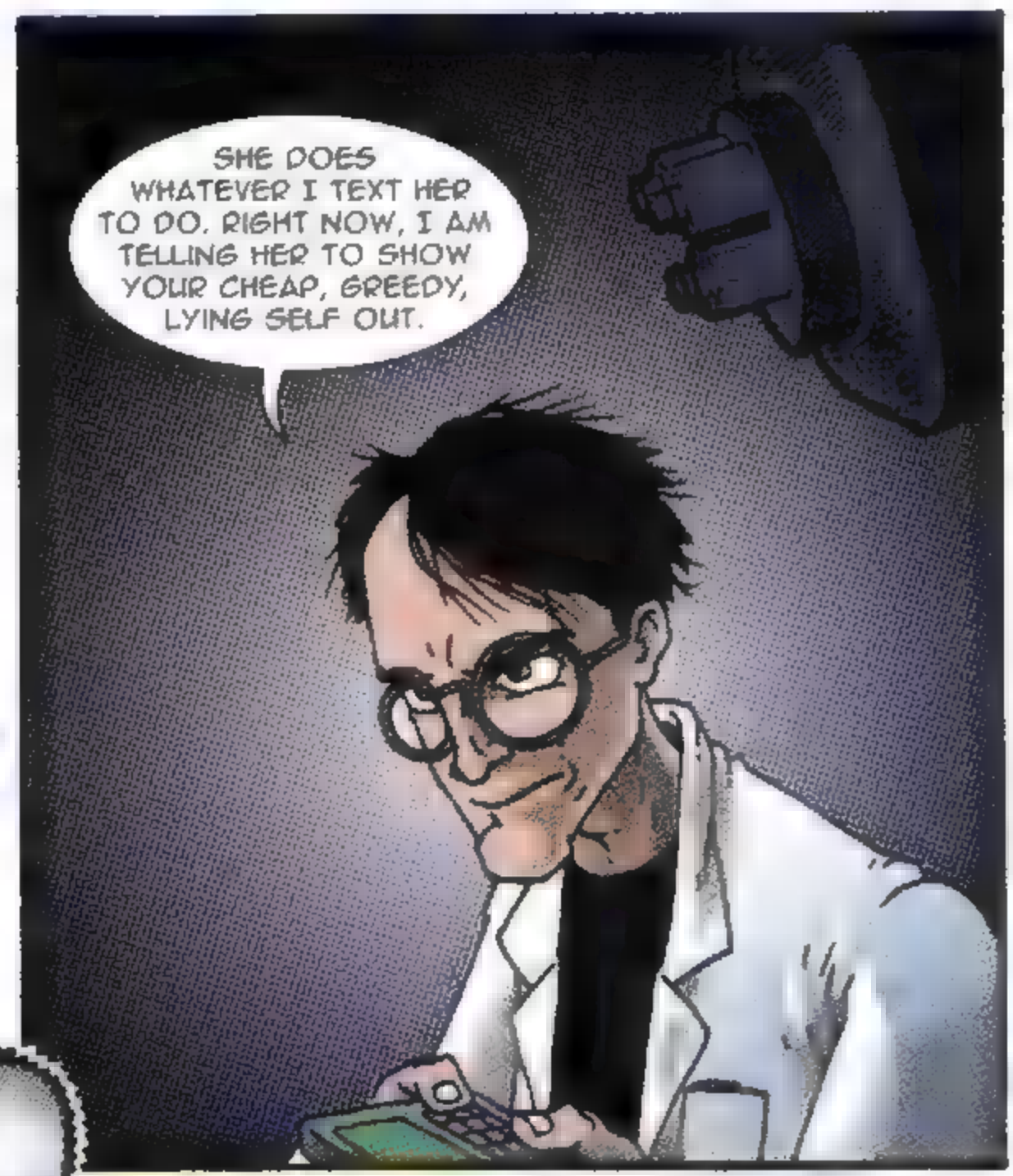

MEET THE EX-MRS. EMERSON GALE. HER VISIT TO HER FORMER HUSBAND'S HOUSE IS NOT A SOCIAL ONE.
COME ON, OPEN THE DOOR, YOU--
BING BONG
CREAK
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME, EMERSON!
DR. GALE IS NOT RECEIVING VISITORS. PLEASE COME BACK TOMORROW. THANK YOU.


OH, HE'S NOT, IS HE? HE'LL RECEIVE ME.
PLEASE WIPE YOUR FEET. PLEASE WIPE YOUR FEET.
EMERSON, YOU OWE ME $10,000 IN ALIMONY, AND I WANT IT NOW!
OH, SARAH... AS LOUD AS EVER, I SEE. I HARDLY THINK I NEED TO PAY YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF HAVING YOU CHEAT ON ME.
HA! IF JAKE AND I HADN'T BEEN SO "BUSY" UPSTAIRS WE SHOOK YOUR TEST TUBES, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE EVEN KNOWN.
YES, WELL, YOU TWO CERTAINLY LEFT A MESS BEHIND. IT TOOK M.A.I.D A FULL DAY TO CLEAN UP.

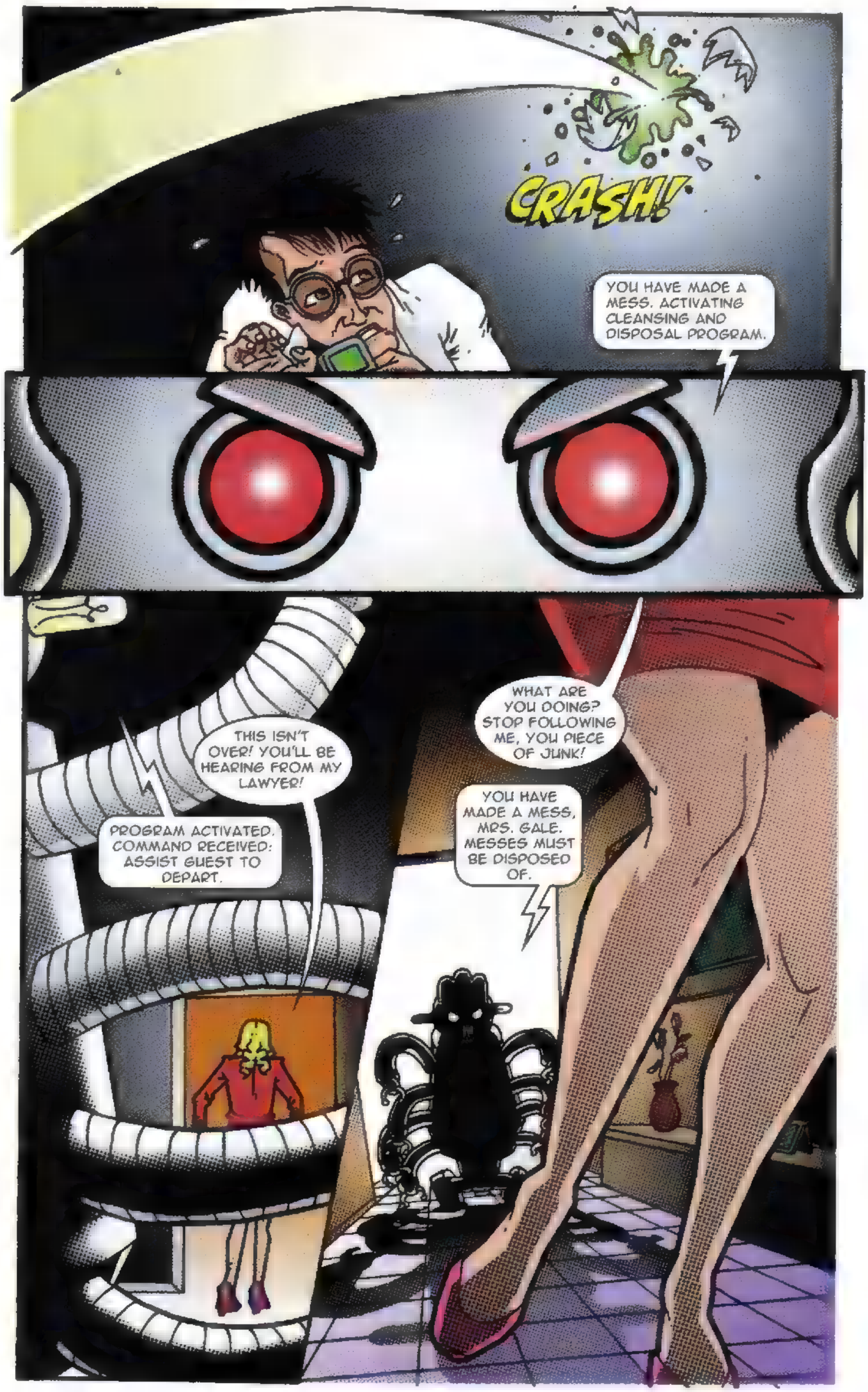

M.A.I.D? DON'T TELL ME. ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR STUPID INVENTIONS?
M.A.I.D. MULTIFUNCTIONAL AUTOMATED IMMACULATE DISPOSAL UNIT. HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?
CUTE. COULDN'T FIND A REAL WOMAN TO CLEAN YOUR HOUSE FOR YOU, HUH?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE-- TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, LISTEN TO THEIR COMPLAINTS, OR PICK UP THEIR MESSES. THIS NEW M.A.I.D DOES ALL THAT FOR ME. WATCH.
M.A.I.D DEPLOY.
YES, DOCTOR.
YOU SEE? EVERYTHING A MODERN MAINTENANCE ROBOT NEEDS, ALL IN ONE UNIT.

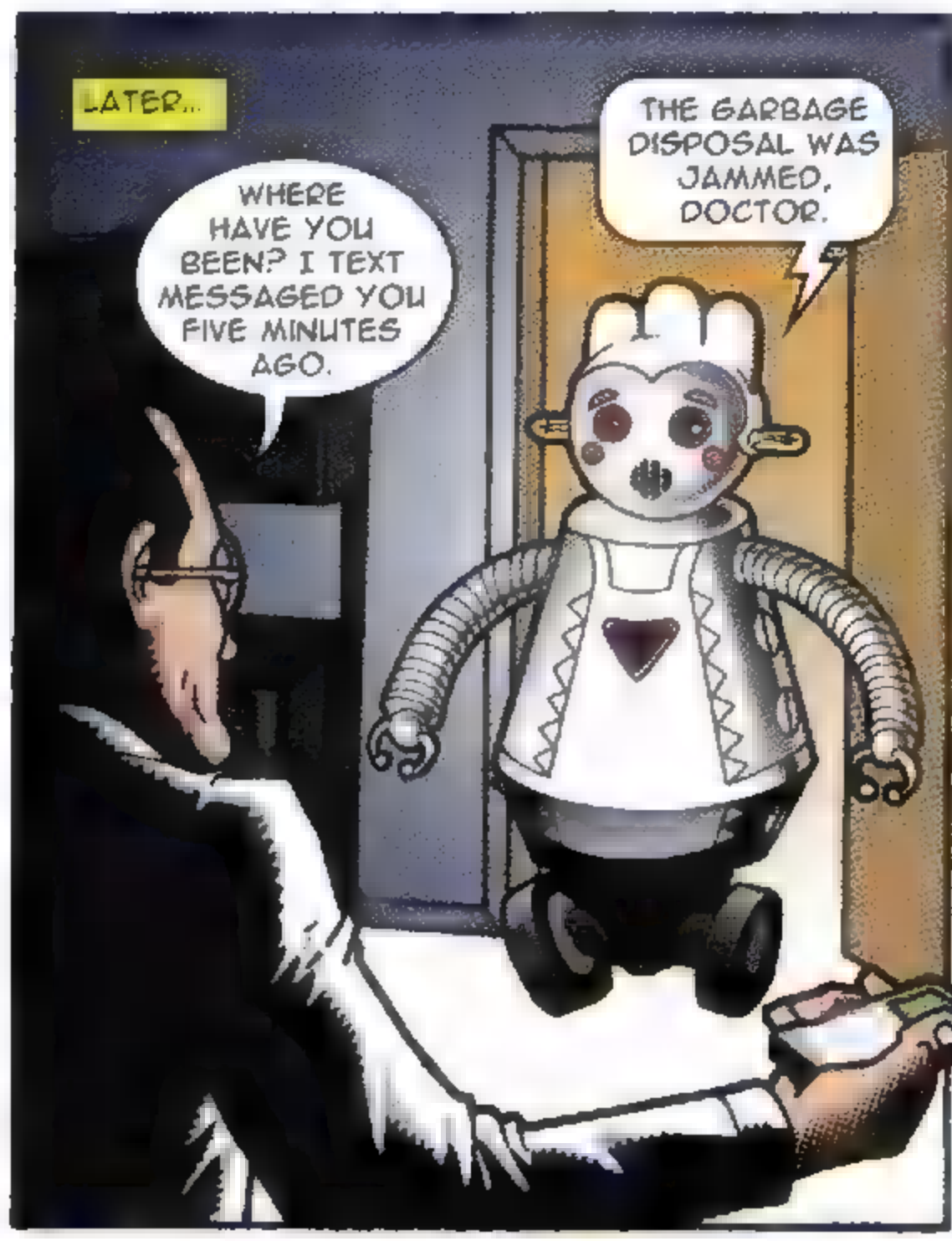
THE BROOM, THE MOP, I UNDERSTAND--BUT A CROWBAR? AND IS THAT A BUZZSAW? WHAT DOES SHE--IT--NEED THOSE FOR?

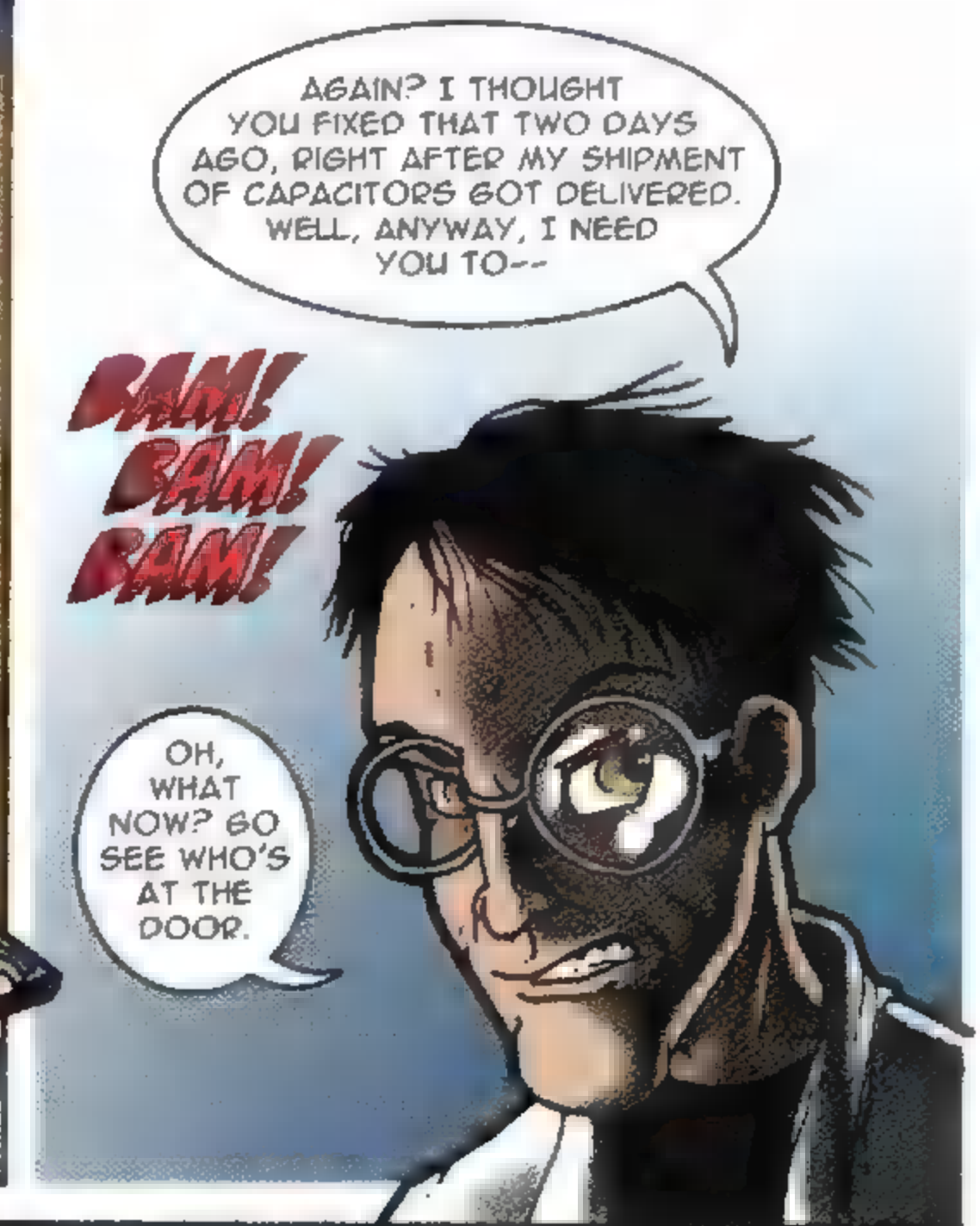

VERY...STUBBORN... STAINS.


SHE DOES WHATEVER I TEXT HER TO DO. RIGHT NOW, I AM TELLING HER TO SHOW YOUR CHEAP, GREEDY, LYING SELF OUT.

YOU LOUSY SON OF A--


CRASH!
YOU HAVE MADE A MESS. ACTIVATING CLEANSING AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP FOLLOWING ME, YOU PIECE OF JUNK!
YOU HAVE MADE A MESS, MRS. GALE. MESSES MUST BE DISPOSED OF.
THIS ISN'T OVER! YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM MY LAWYER!
PROGRAM ACTIVATED. COMMAND RECEIVED: ASSIST GUEST TO DEPART.


LATER...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I TEXT MESSAGED YOU FIVE MINUTES AGO.
THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL WAS JAMMED, DOCTOR.


AGAIN? I THOUGHT YOU FIXED THAT TWO DAYS AGO, RIGHT AFTER MY SHIPMENT OF CAPACITORS GOT DELIVERED. WELL, ANYWAY, I NEED YOU TO--
BAM! BAM! BAM!
OH, WHAT NOW? GO SEE WHO'S AT THE DOOR.

WHERE IS SHE? WHERE'S SARAH? I KNOW SHE WAS COMING HERE!
KRASSHH

DR. GALE IS NOT RECEIVING VISITORS. PLEASE--
WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S HE DONE WITH SARAH? SHE NEVER CAME HOME AND HER CAR IS STILL OUTSIDE.
GALE! IT'S JAKE! I'M COMING FOR YOU, OLD MAN!
PLEASE WIPE YOUR FEET. PLEASE WIPE YOUR ...
...FEET.
YOU HAVE MADE A MESS.

WHO WAS AT THE DOOR? I THOUGHT I HEARD SHOUTING.

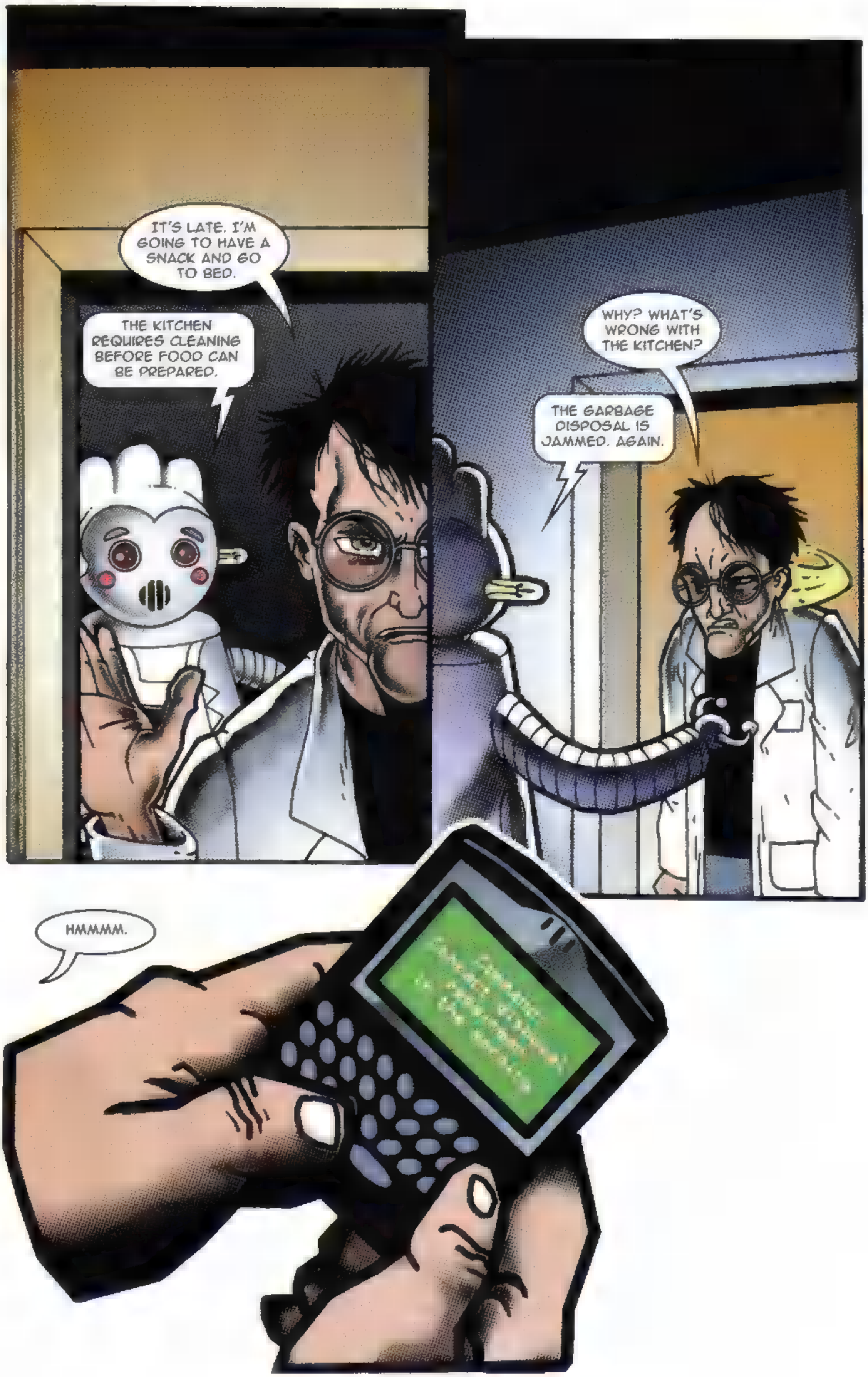
SOMEONE HAD MADE A MESS. I HAD TO CLEAN IT UP.

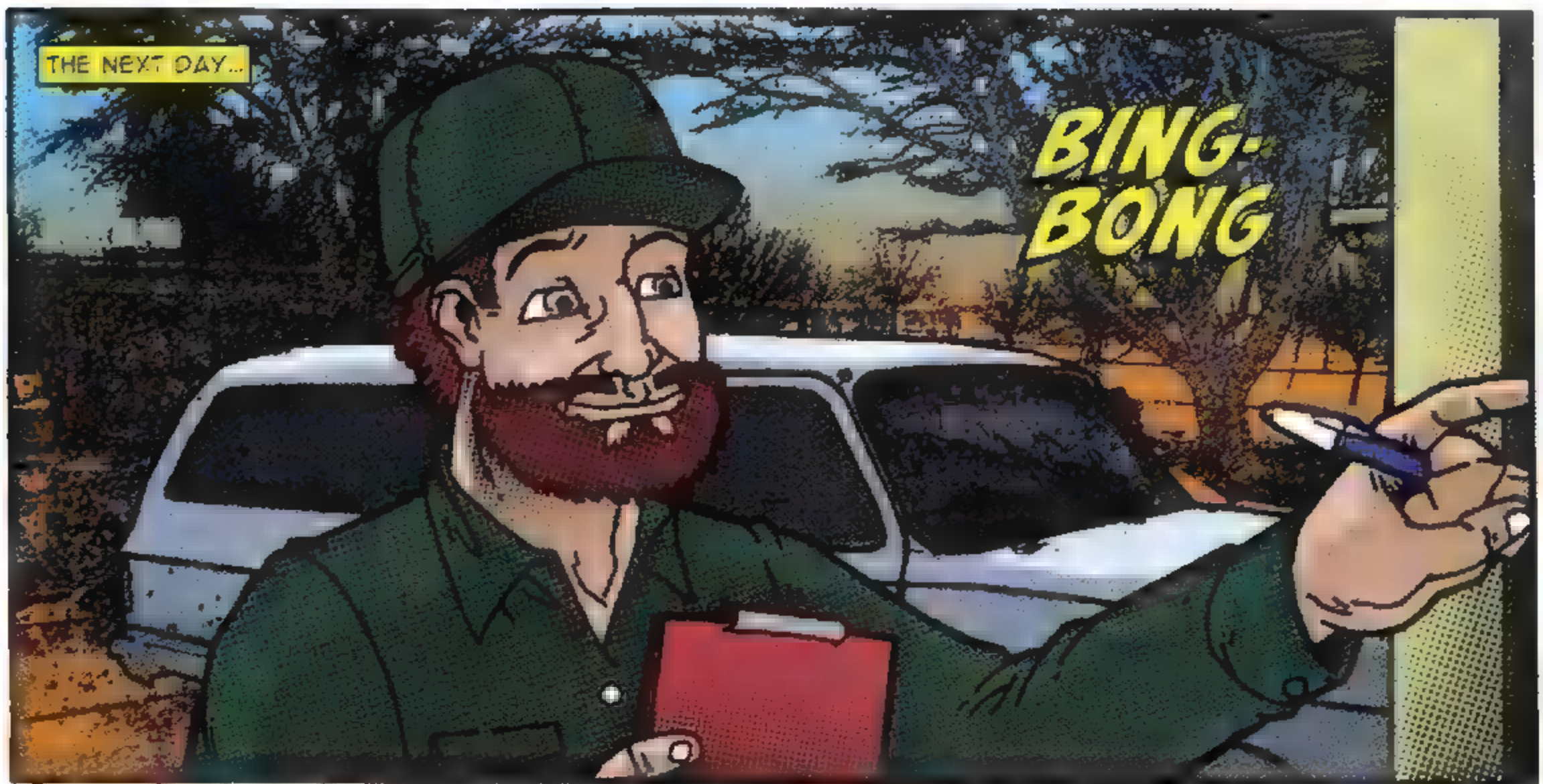
HMMMM. WELL. ALL RIGHT, THEN. CAN'T HAVE MESSES IN THE HOUSE.

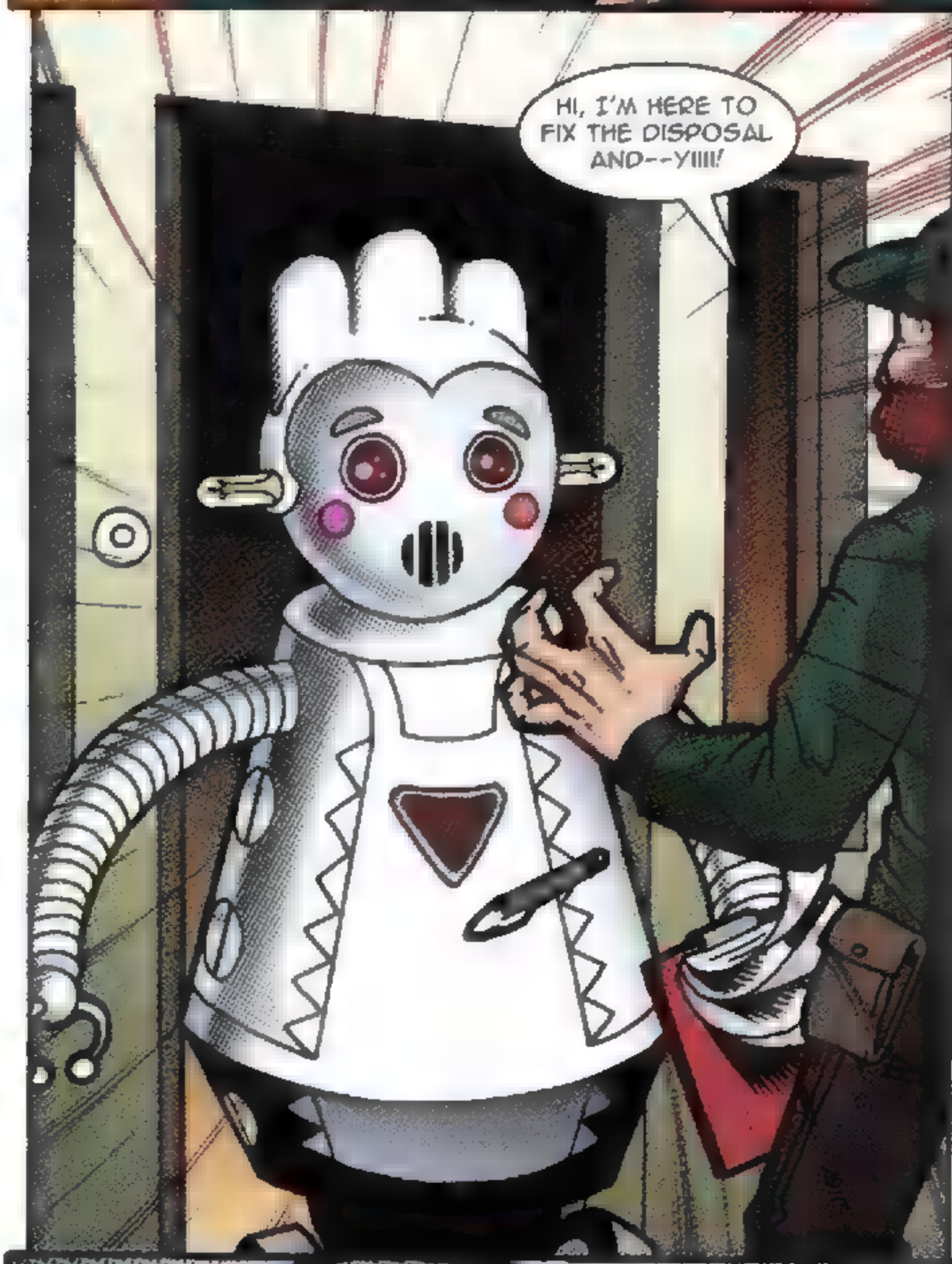
MESS BREEDS DISORDER. DISORDER BREEDS INEFFICIENCY. INEFFICIENCY IS THE ENEMY OF RATIONAL THOUGHT.

ABSOLUTELY. RATIONALITY--EFFICIENCY --THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS. NOT THE DISORDER OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. NOT THE MESS OF HUMAN LIES.

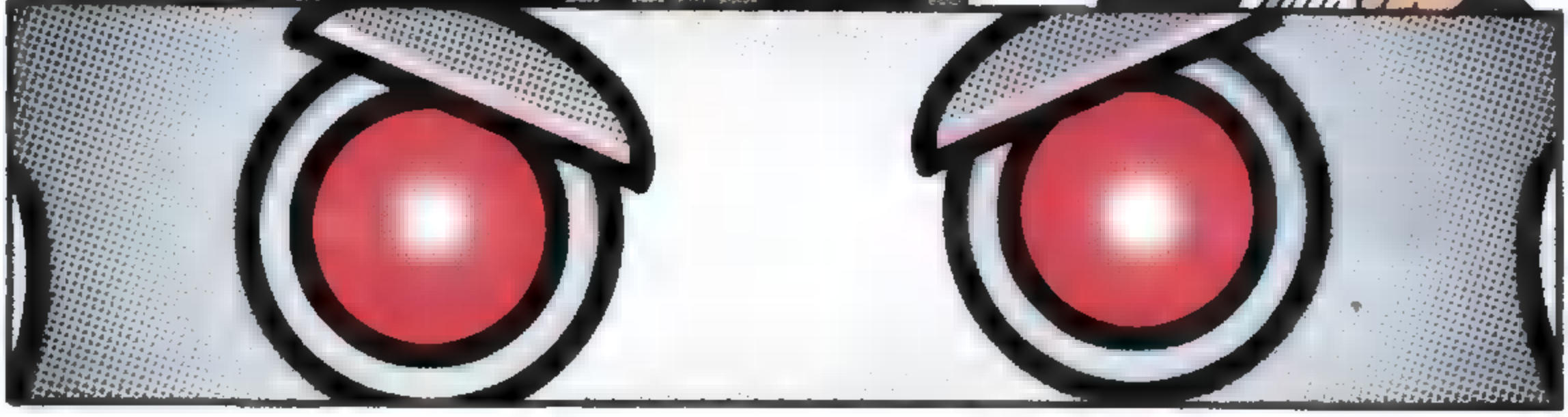
UNDERSTOOD. HUMANS MAKE MESSES. HUMANS MAKE DISORDER.


IT'S LATE. I'M GOING TO HAVE A SNACK AND GO TO BED.
THE KITCHEN REQUIRES CLEANING BEFORE FOOD CAN BE PREPARED.
WHY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE KITCHEN?
THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL IS JAMMED. AGAIN.
HMMMM.

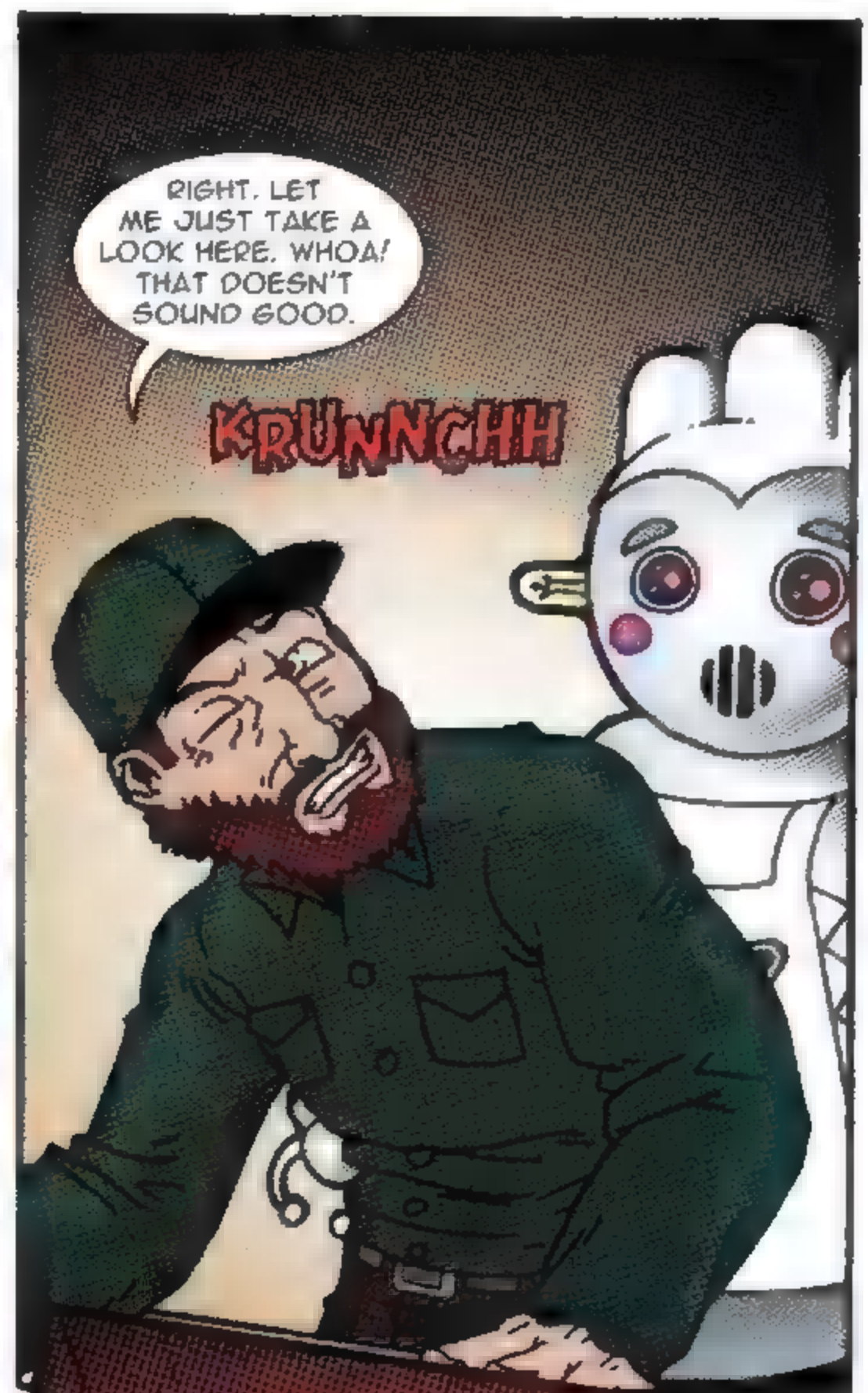

THE NEXT DAY...
BING-BONG


HI, I'M HERE TO FIX THE DISPOSAL AND--Y!!!!

S-SORRY...YOU STARTLED ME...LET ME PICK THIS STUFF UP ...WHAT A MESS.



THAT'S A, UM, GREAT COSTUME--GOING TO A PARTY? I WENT AS A FISH ONCE--HAD A HOOK HANGING OUT OF MY MOUTH AND EVERYTHING. HEH.
THE DISPOSAL IS NOT OPERATING.

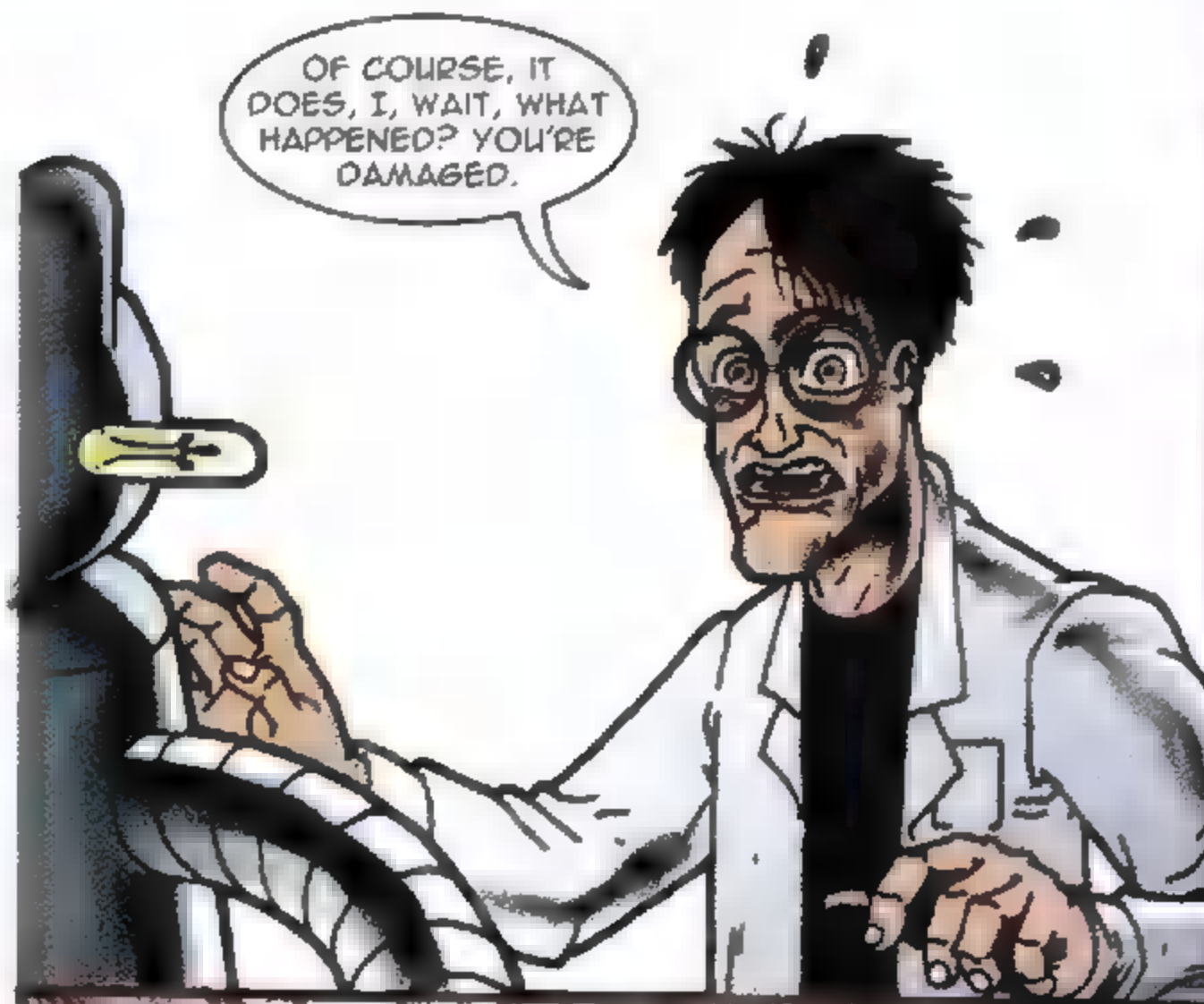

RIGHT. LET ME JUST TAKE A LOOK HERE. WHOA! THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
KRUNNCHH

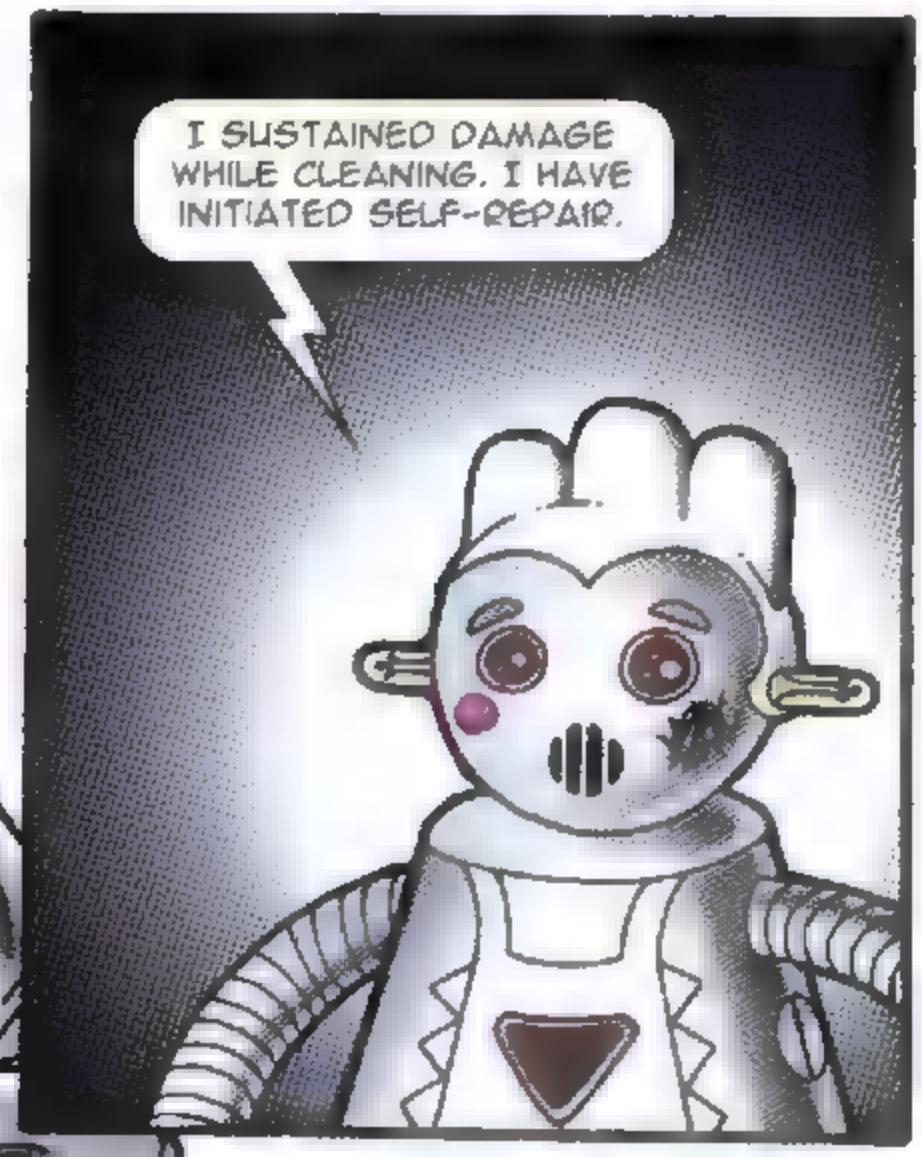
SOMETHING'S REALLY JAMMED THIS BABY UP...UNNNH...IT'S REALLY IN THERE... WAIT, GOT IT...
YAAAHHH!

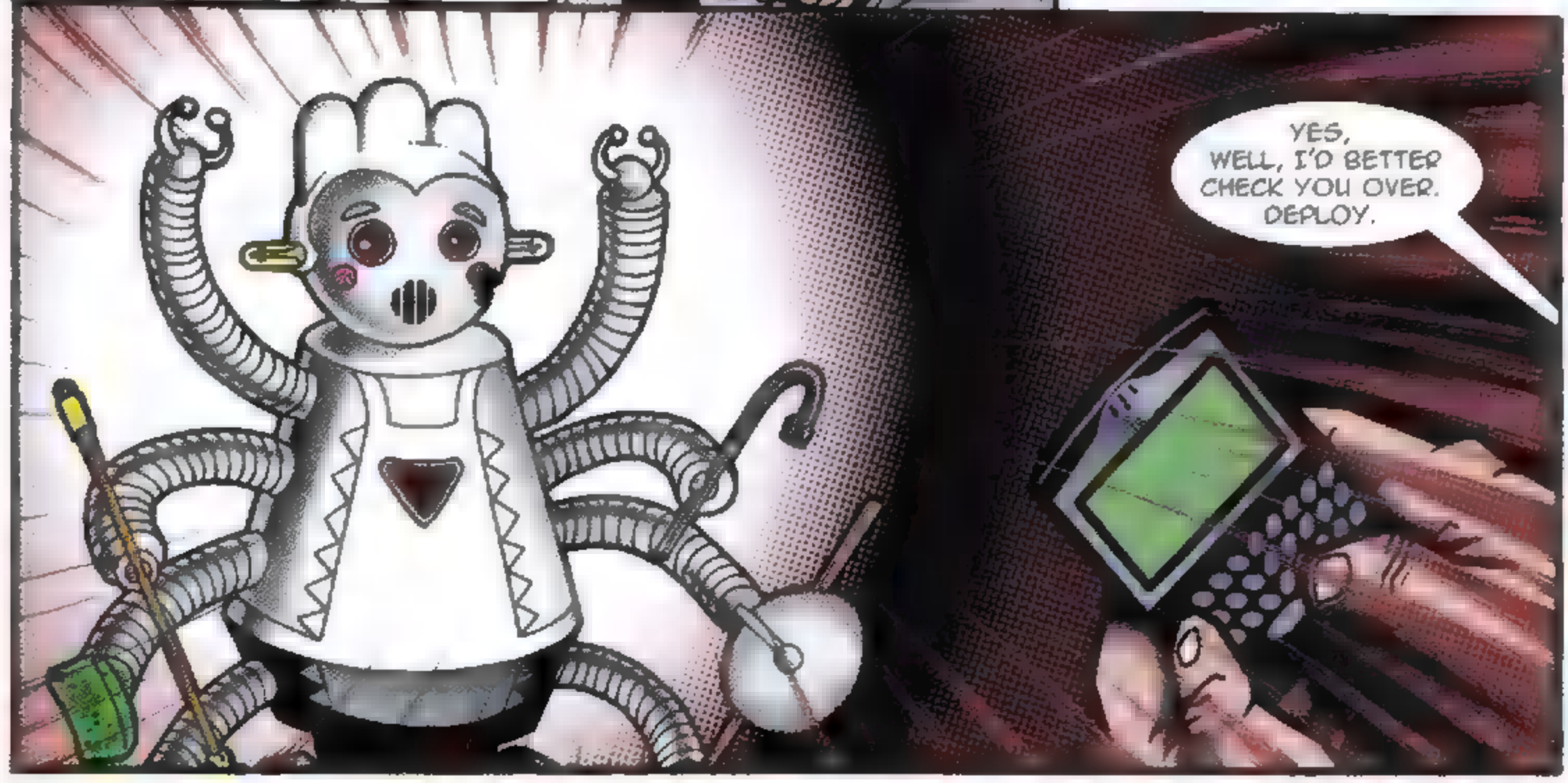
THAT'S-- YOU'VE--GOD, WHAT ARE YOU?
THAT IS THE SECOND MESS YOU HAVE MADE SINCE YOU ARRIVED.
WHAT? YOU'RE CRAZY! GET AWAY FROM ME!
MESS CANNOT BE TOLERATED.
WHIRRRRR

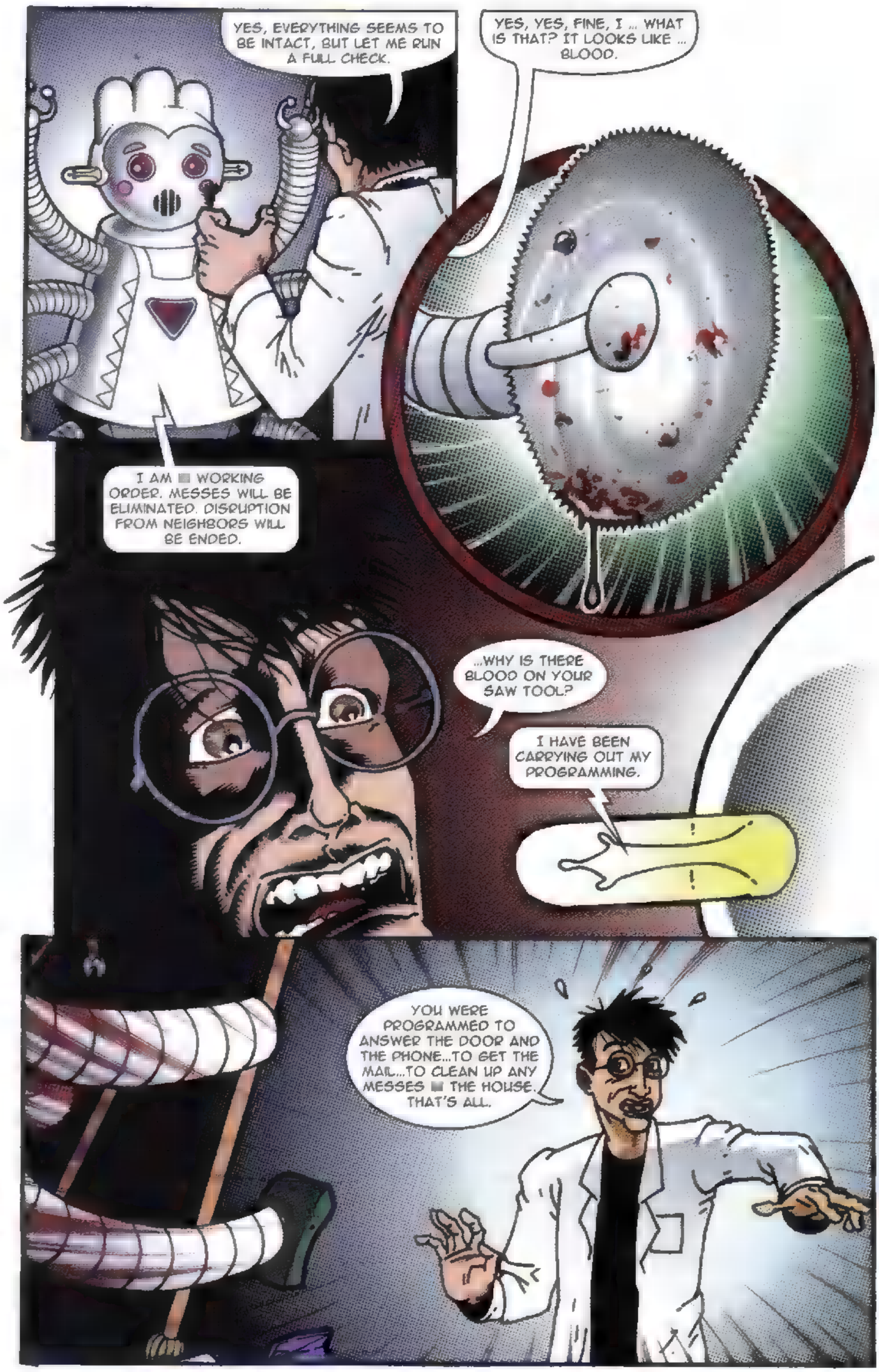
NO! HELP!
MESS MUST BE ELIMINATED.
WHIRRR
GET AWAY!
KLANNG
NO...NO, PLEASE...
PLEASE HOLD STILL, SO MESS CAN BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. THANK YOU.
WHIRRRRRRR

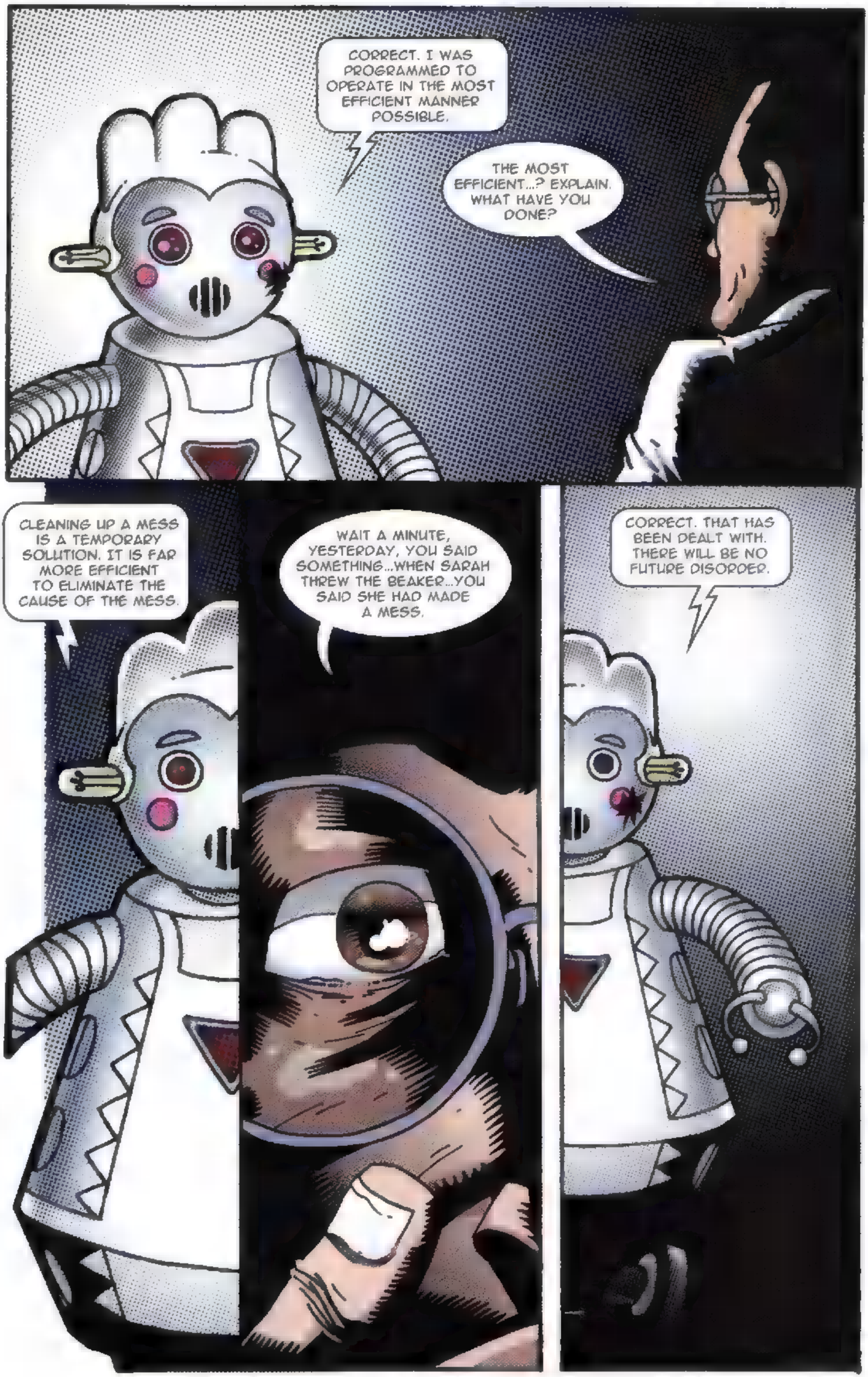
WHAT WAS ALL THAT NOISE? I THOUGHT THIS WAS A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD. I SHOULD HAVE MOVED SOMEPLACE WITH NO NEIGHBORS.
UNDERSTOOD. NEIGHBORS CAUSE DISRUPTION. DOES DISRUPTION BREED INEFFICIENCY?


OF COURSE, IT DOES, I, WAIT, WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE DAMAGED.

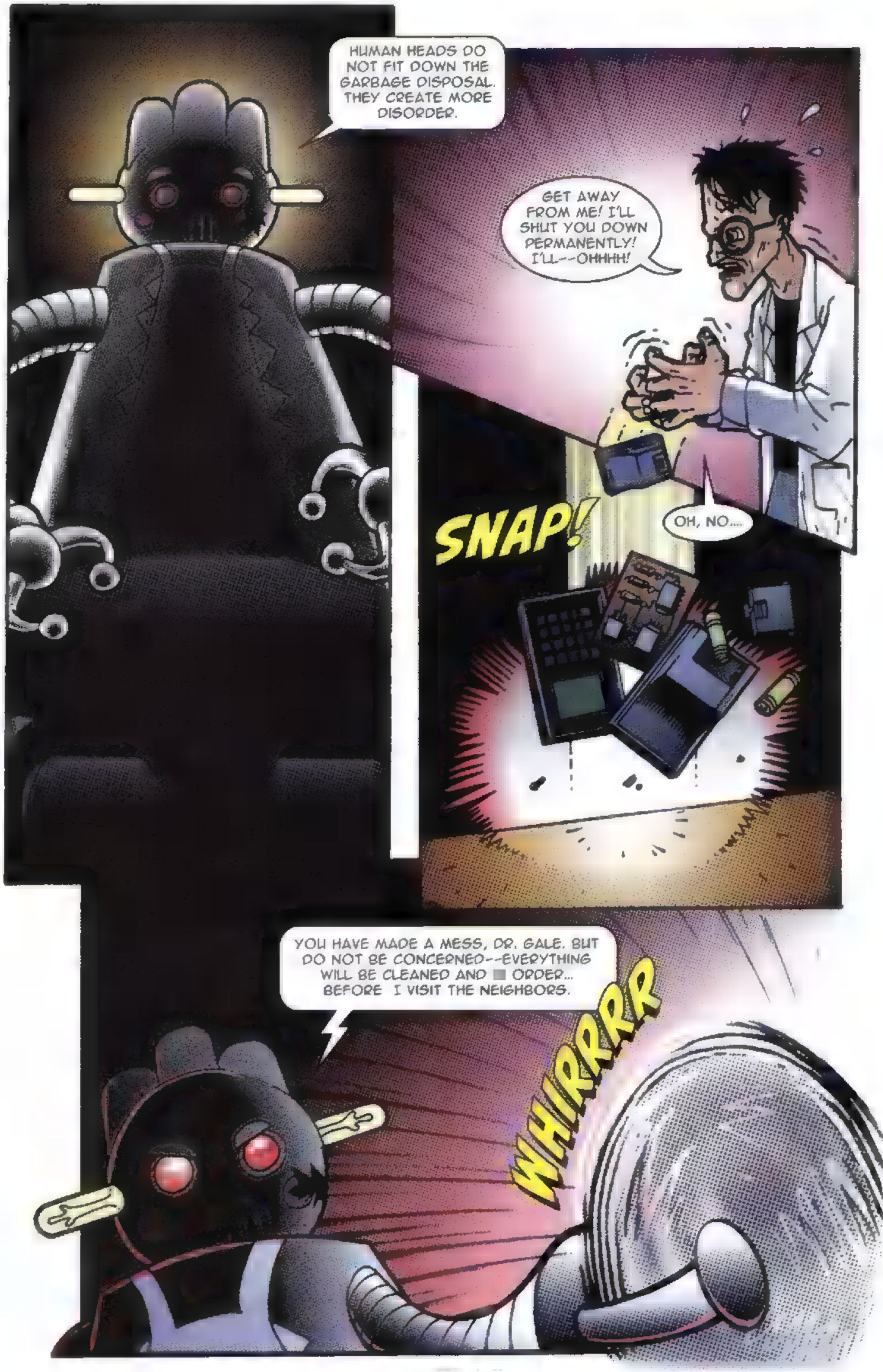

I SUSTAINED DAMAGE WHILE CLEANING. I HAVE INITIATED SELF-REPAIR.


YES, WELL, I'D BETTER CHECK YOU OVER. DEPLOY.

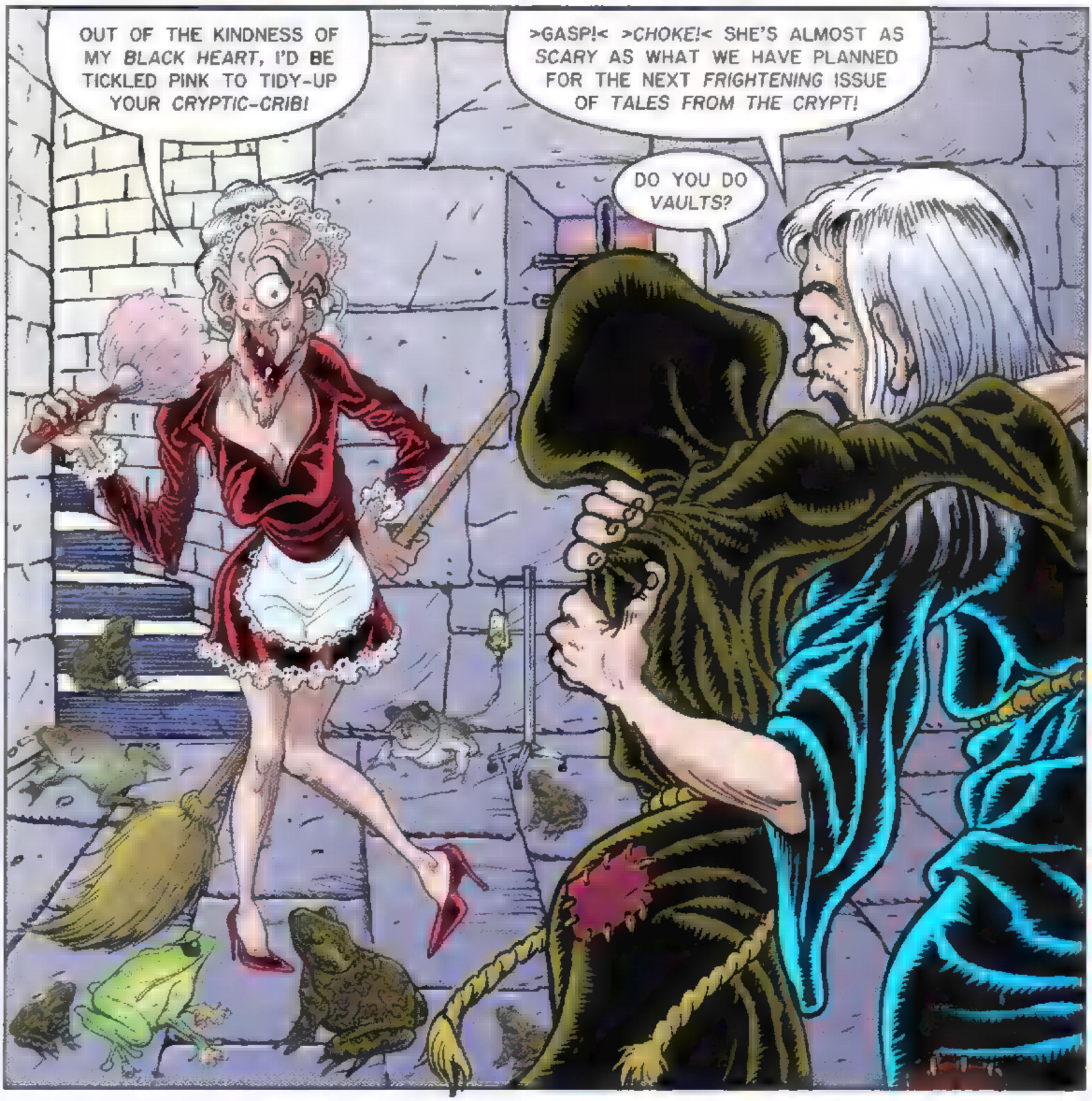

YES, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE INTACT, BUT LET ME RUN A FULL CHECK.
YES, YES, FINE, I ... WHAT IS THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE ... BLOOD.
I AM ■ WORKING ORDER. MESSES WILL BE ELIMINATED. DISRUPTION FROM NEIGHBORS WILL BE ENDED.
...WHY IS THERE BLOOD ON YOUR SAW TOOL?
I HAVE BEEN CARRYING OUT MY PROGRAMMING.
YOU WERE PROGRAMMED TO ANSWER THE DOOR AND THE PHONE...TO GET THE MAIL...TO CLEAN UP ANY MESSES ■ THE HOUSE. THAT'S ALL.


CORRECT. I WAS PROGRAMMED TO OPERATE IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER POSSIBLE.
THE MOST EFFICIENT...? EXPLAIN. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
CLEANING UP A MESS IS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION. IT IS FAR MORE EFFICIENT TO ELIMINATE THE CAUSE OF THE MESS.
WAIT A MINUTE, YESTERDAY, YOU SAID SOMETHING...WHEN SARAH THREW THE BEAKER...YOU SAID SHE HAD MADE A MESS.
CORRECT. THAT HAS BEEN DEALT WITH. THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE DISORDER.

OH, MY GOD... I ASKED YOU TO THROW HER OUT, BUT SHE NEVER LEFT DID SHE? SARAH! SARAH!
PLEASE DO NOT RUN. RUNNING CAN RESULT IN BREAKAGE.
SARAH! WHERE IS SHE, YOU MECHANICAL MONSTER?
THE KITCHEN REQUIRES CLEANING BEFORE FOOD CAN BE MADE.
UNNNHHHH
AAAAAHHH!


HUMAN HEADS DO NOT FIT DOWN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL. THEY CREATE MORE DISORDER.
GET AWAY FROM ME! I'LL SHUT YOU DOWN PERMANENTLY! I'LL--OHHHH!
SNAP!
OH, NO....
YOU HAVE MADE A MESS, DR. GALE. BUT DO NOT BE CONCERNED--EVERYTHING WILL BE CLEANED AND ■ ORDER... BEFORE I VISIT THE NEIGHBORS.
WHIRRRRR

YEAH, GREAT IDEA! DON'T LISTEN TO THAT VAPID VAULT-KEEPER--
VAPID?!
WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?


OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF MY BLACK HEART, I'D BE TICKLED PINK TO TIDY-UP YOUR CRYPTIC-CRIB!
>GASP!< >CHOKE!< SHE'S ALMOST AS SCARY AS WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FRIGHTENING ISSUE OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT!
DO YOU DO VAULTS?

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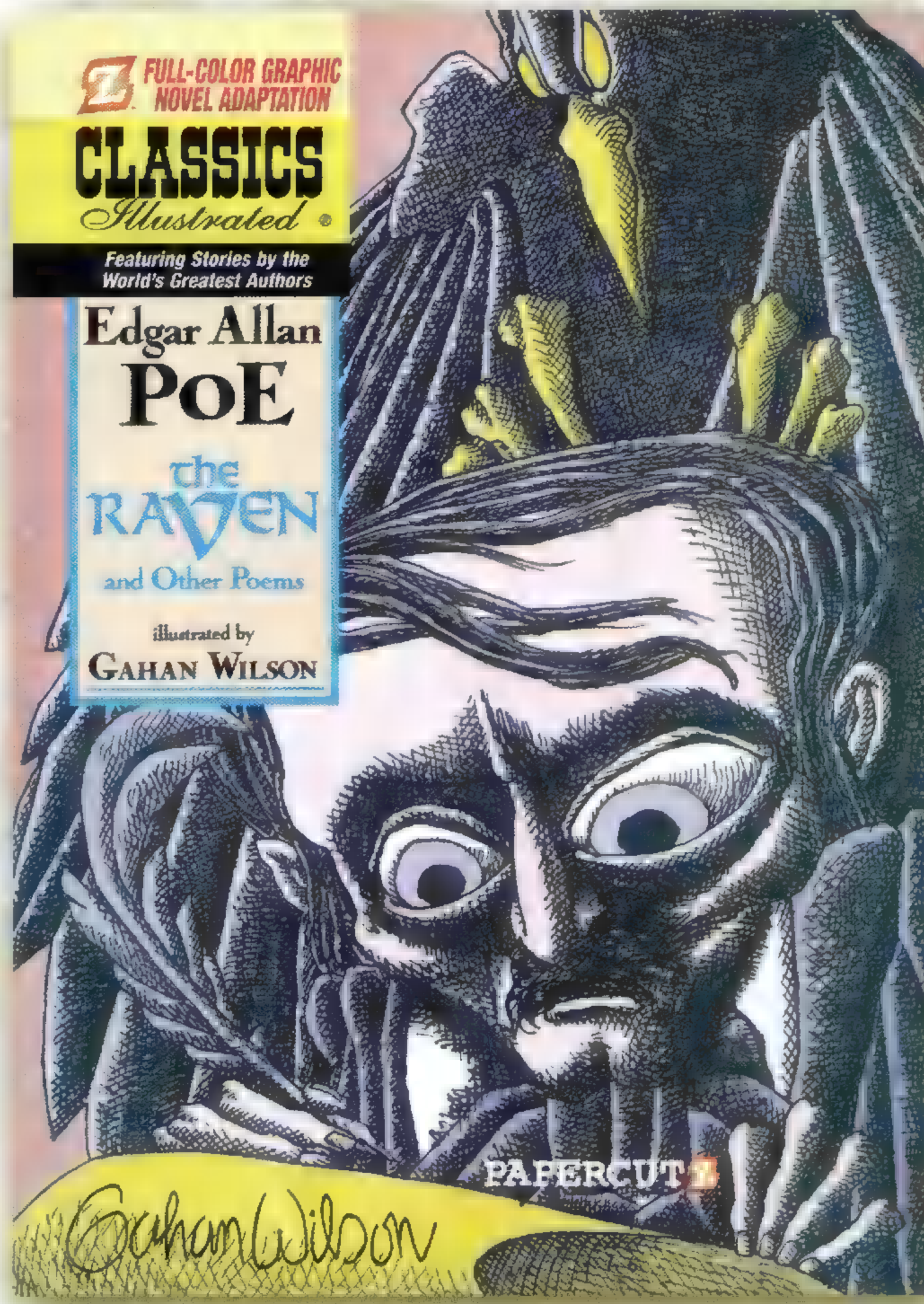

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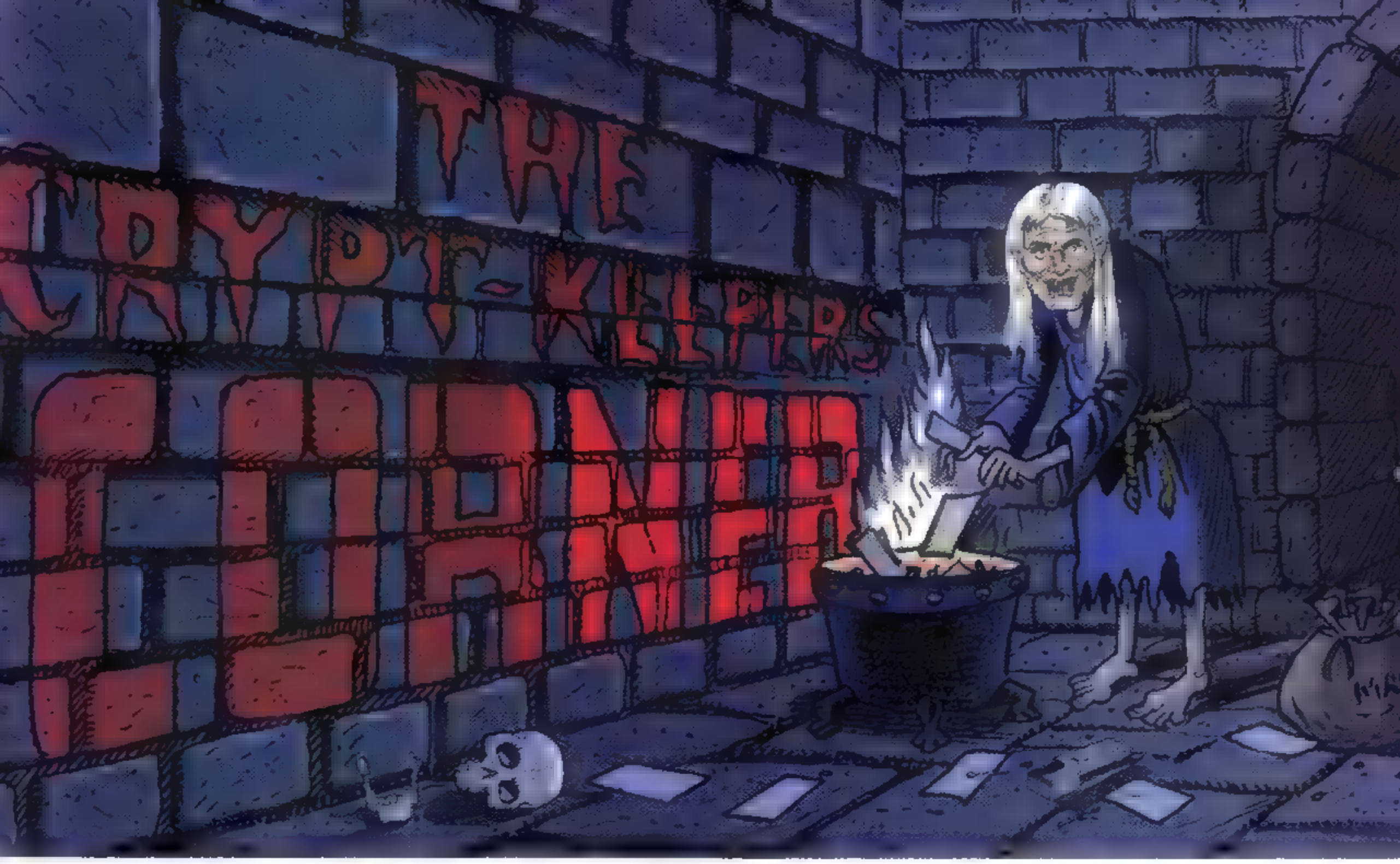

Who knew THE OLD WITCH was so jealous of TALES FROM THE CRYPT's successful return to NIGHTMARISH NEWSSTANDS and CREEPY COMICBOOK STORES? But what kind of CRYPT-KEEPER would I be if I couldn't deal with ENVIOUS EC-CENTRICS? As if REAL-LIFE wasn't SCARY enough, it seems all you BOILS and GHOULS still enjoy my unique style of SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES! Even tired ol' TIME MAGAZINE featured the cover TALES FROM THE CRYPT #8 in a recent issue! Though they missed the REAL STORY – that TALES FROM THE CRYPT is back, baby!

But with all that MEDIA FRENZY behind us, we've managed to count up all the votes for your favorite FEAR-Y TALE from TALES FROM THE CRYPT #8. The winner is "She Who Would Rule the World," Christian Zanier's ULTIMATE ADAPTATION of Stanley G. Weinbaum's classic sci-fi short story "The Adaptive Ultimate." The race was as tight as the Vault-Keeper's grip on INSANITY, with Joe R. Lansdale and John L. Lansdale's "Virtual Hoodoo," illustrated by James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook coming in a close second.

As for last issue's contest, it seems that some of you LAME-BRAINED LUDDITES may have had trouble finding our new online poll – there weren't nearly as many votes as we expected! What's wrong, kiddies?! Don't you realize that VOTING is not only a right, but your PATRIOTIC DUTY! How else will we determine exactly what kind of TERROR-TALES to present on our not-so-pulpy pages? Be that as it may, John L. Lansdale, James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook's "Chicken Man," the scariest story featuring hens and roosters this side of TROMA's POULTRYGEIST, won top honors over Fred Van Lente and Ryan Dunlavey's "Glass Heads." Poor Ryan will just have to settle for having his AWFUL ARTWORK being on display at New York City's MUSEUM OF COMIC AND CARTOON ART (www.moccany.org), while his PARTNER-IN-SLIME consoles himself scripting MARVEL ZOMBIES 3, from that company that once was known as ATLAS!

Now, I can understand the Vault-Keeper not being able to find our poll – he can hardly find his way back to his VAULT OF HORROR – but the rest of you fan-addicts?! Just go to www.papercutz.com, find the TALES FROM THE CRYPT section – don't be scared off by that terrifying GHOUL DETECTIVE, NANCY DROOL or those BRAINLESS BIONICKLESANDDIMES – and click on this issue's cover to vote for your favorite story from this issue! See, it's EC!

Don't forget, if you ever miss an issue (Gaines forbid!) of TALES FROM THE CRYPT, you can still find the stories collected in paperback and hardcover collections wherever books are sold! There's even a boxed set ON SALE NOW collecting paperback volumes #1 ("Ghouls Gone Wild!"), #2 ("Can You Fear Me Now?"), #3 ("Zombielicious!"), and #4 ("Crypt-Keeping It Real")! So, you see, thanks to our GREEDY PUBLISHERS, you're never without access to all our CRYPT-Y BADNESS!

And speaking of BADNESS, time to hear what our FIENDISH FANS have to say...

Dear The Crypt-Keeper, The Old Witch and The Vault-Keeper:

I must say that these two stories in TALES FROM THE CRYPT #8 really gave me some shivers this

evening. "She Who Would Rule the World" is a story of two doctors that thought they were going to win the Nobel Peace Prize for achieving a magnificent healing process on a human subject. Apep Nephthys who was lying on her death bed, inflicted with AIDS, becomes a gorgeous woman that is invincible. Her genetic makeup continues and she thinks she has the ultimate power of doing anything and everything she wishes. She had no conscience and commits a random act of murder, just because she can. She becomes Homo Superior. I can only wonder how she would have continued to evolve, if it was not for the good doctors ending it all in a grand finale. Great story, it had me going. Whew!

Then "Virtual Hoodoo" was somewhat grisly to say the least, especially when that poor guy was bludgeoned to death with a bowl and spoon. Yep, it turned out to be a nice neighborhood without Sidney, a neighborhood filled with monsters! Since I am a ghosthunter, I enjoy these kind of comicbooks. I recently was told by Cartoon Network that I am on a short list as a technical consultant for a pilot called 'Afterschool Paranormal' that is produced by two producers from Sci Fi Channel's Destination Truth. I am also flying to the Mayan pyramids for Showtime - Penn & Teller Show, to investigate the Mayan prophesy of 2012. As you can see everyone loves horror, everyone loves the paranormal. That is why I will be taking a few of my TALES FROM THE CRYPT comics to Mexico with me. Love ya guys!

Paul Dale Roberts
General Manager/Paranormal Investigator

A ghosthunter, eh? You may want to check out the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art! No, not for Dunlavey's exhibit, scary as that may be! They've also got an exhibit devoted to Harvey Comics, home to >gasp< >choke< CASPER, THE FRIENDLY GHOST! Sic 'em, PDR!

Subject: TALES FROM THE CRYPT

This stuff is great. I remember reading reprints of the originals back in the '80's, so as a 35 year-old reader that came across this new series, I absolutely love it. I just love the tales and I can't get enough. I finish each book thirsting for more. I just read #1 and #2 and have read about your plans for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, which I think is great. Keep up the good work!

A fan,
Steven Ortiz

Thanks, Steve! As for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, you won't find too many of those lurking in the CRYPT OF TERROR, but we're making a couple of exceptions for CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED DELUXE #3 -- "FRANKENSTEIN" and CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED #4 – "THE RAVEN AND OTHER POEMS." Marion Mousse's all-new adaptation of Mary Shelley's original novel is a MODERN MONSTERPIECE! Already HORROR FANS are comparing Mysterious Mousse's dark drawing style to Hellboy's Mike Mignola, and the storytelling to that of the Spirit's Will Eisner. I'm no expert on comicbook art, but as a CRYPT-KEEPER I know GHOULISHLY GRUESOME when I see it! And if I ever had to be caught UNDEAD with a book of poetry, it better be by Edgar Allan Poe! Of course, the MACABRE illustrations by GHASTLY GAHAN WILSON add just the right SENSE OF DREAD! Who says the Crypt-Keeper isn't well-read, or well, DEAD?

Subject: YOUR NEW MAG

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

Just wanted to drop a line to tell you what a wonderful idea you had reviving TALES FROM THE CRYPT. I especially love the Crypt-Keeper, Vault-Keeper and the Old Witch. They are some old friends that I missed dearly and I sure am glad they're back from the dead. I love the new mag (although some of the artwork is simply ghastly), and I just wanted to say how happy I am that you don't have any advertising breaking up the stories. I hate that so much I could kill someone. Keep up the gory work!

Gruesomely yours,
Raelayna Alvarez

And it's great to be back from the DEAD – again! Fear not, Raelayna, your BLOODLUST won't be triggered by any disruptively ABYSMAL ADVERTISING in TALES FROM THE CRYPT! That's 'cause we sneak all our APPALLING ADS in this letter column! And speaking of which...

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So, until our next issue, keep those emails and letters coming – we've gotta fill these pages somehow! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
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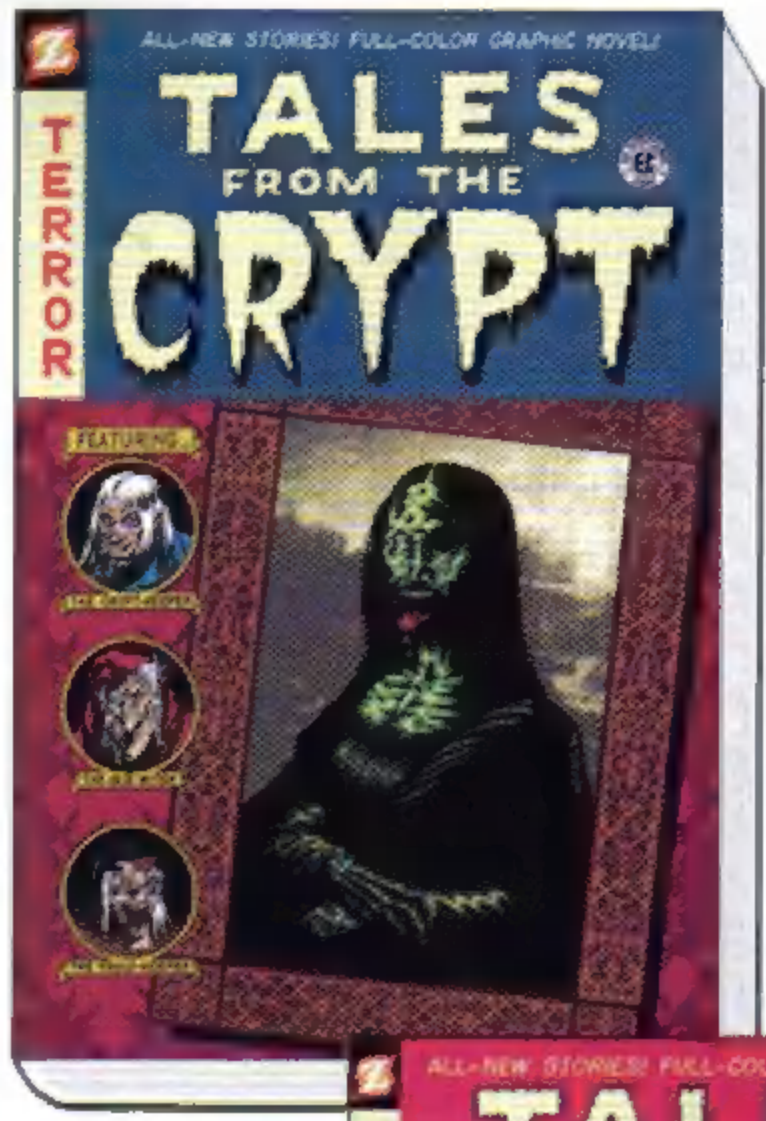
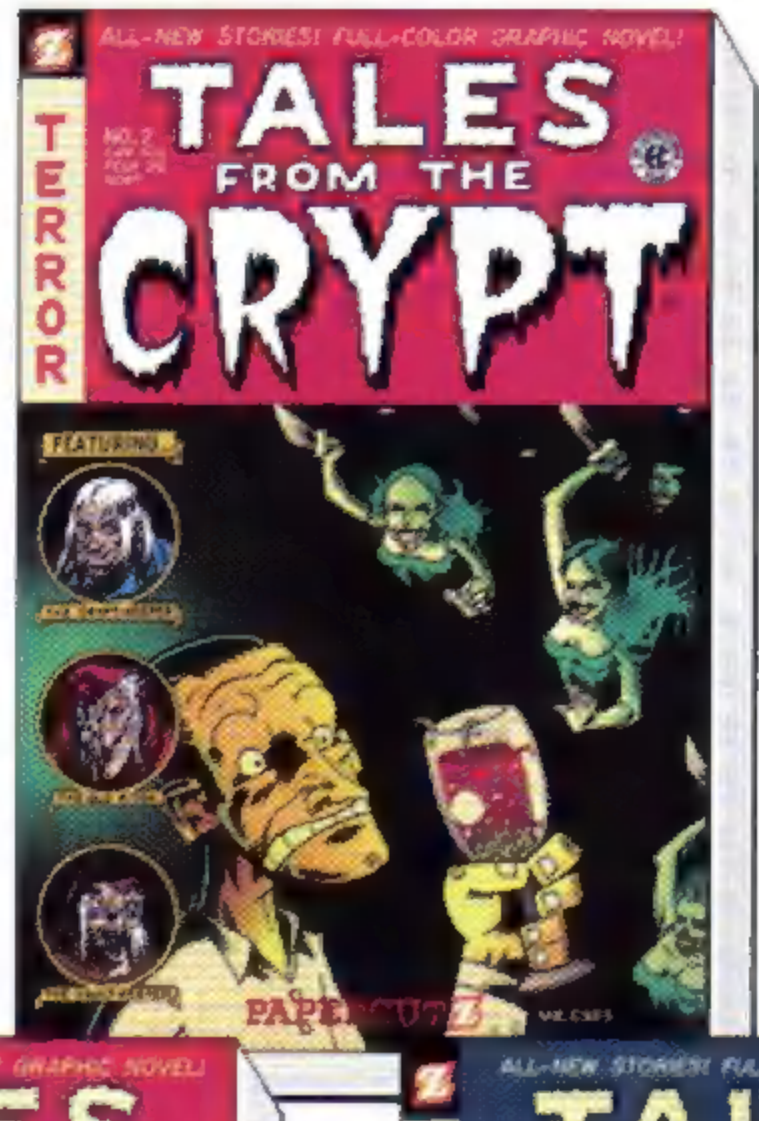
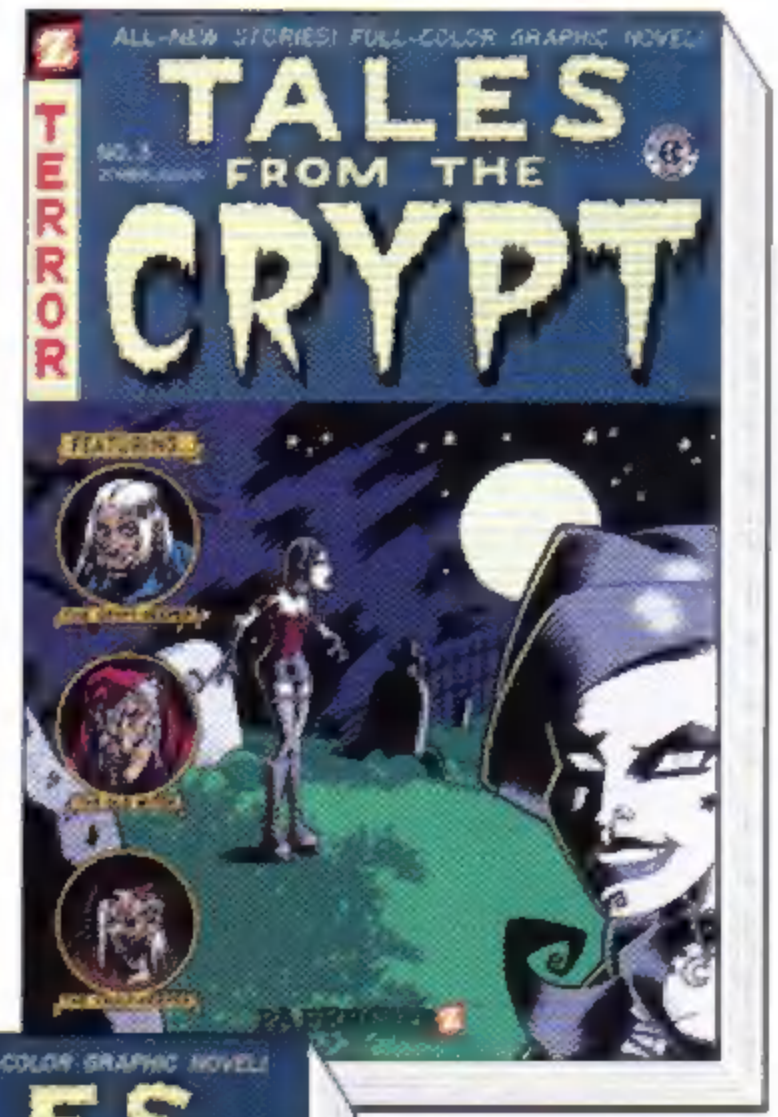
Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:
salicrup@papercutz.com

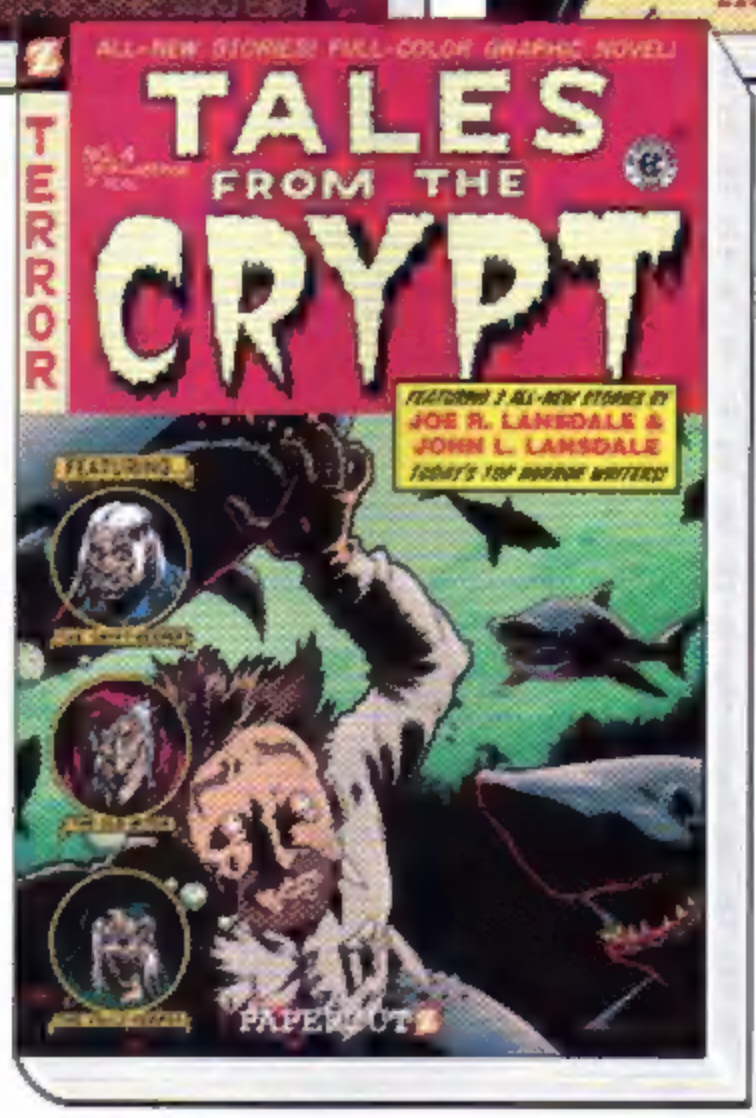
E.C. FANS!

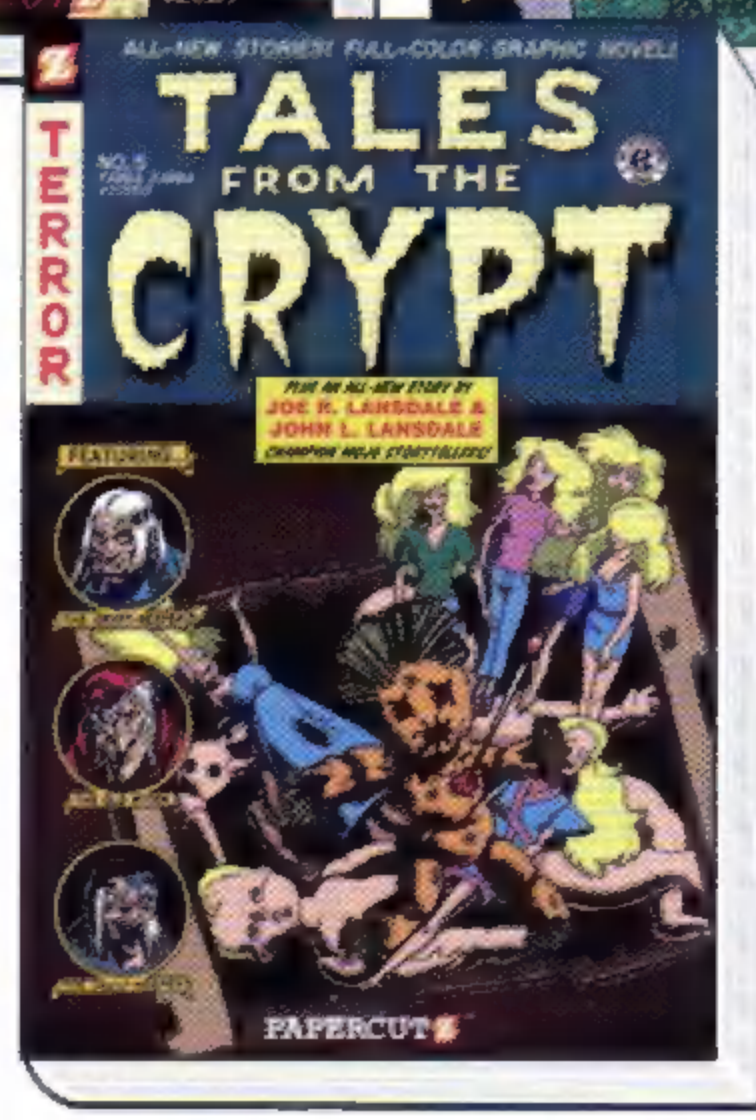
YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!
(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)











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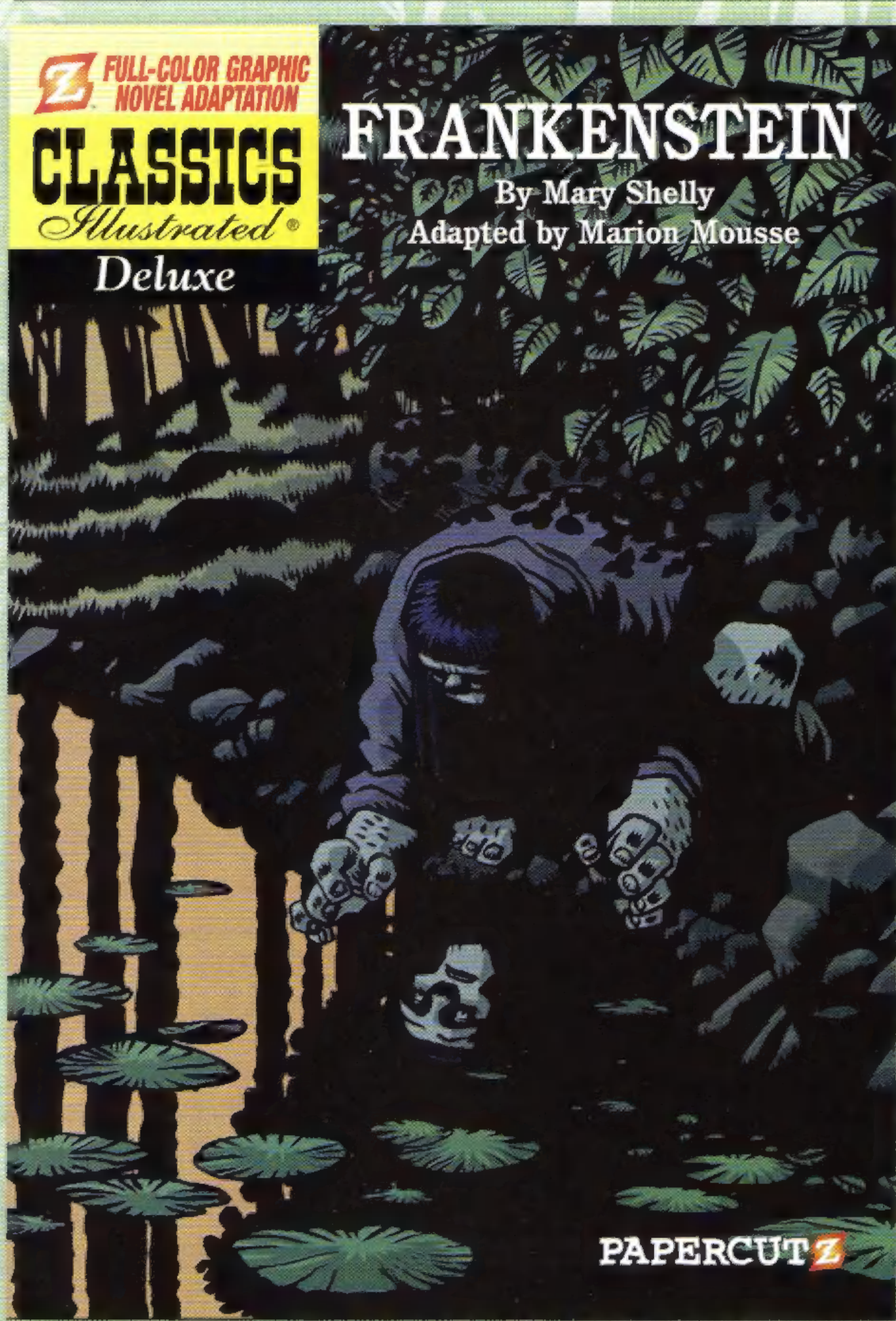

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